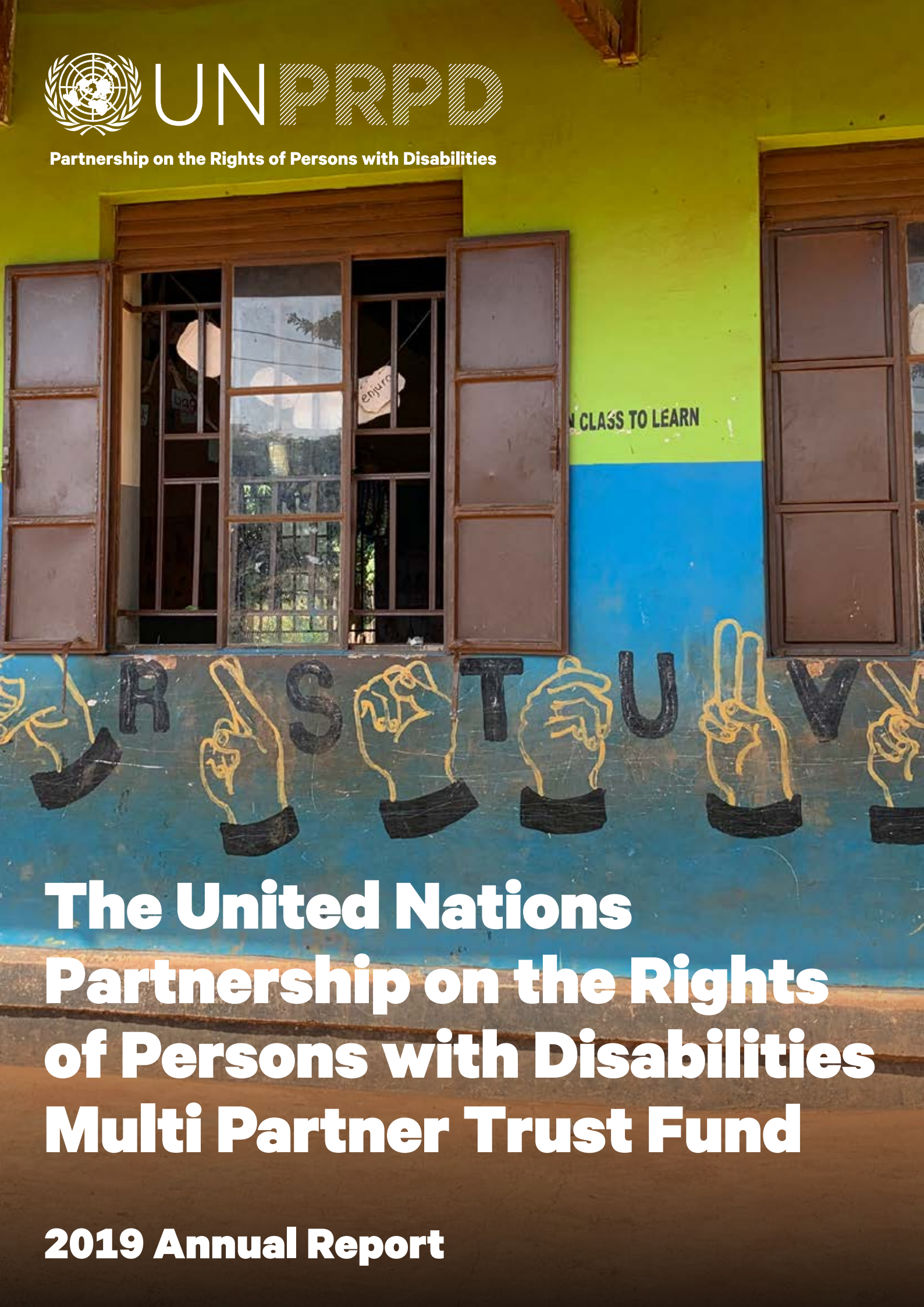




UNPRPD

Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



The United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Multi Partner Trust Fund

2019 Annual Report

List of Abbreviations

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| AA | Administrative Agent |
| CIS | Commonwealth of Independent States |
| CRPD | Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities |
| CSO | Civil Society Organizations |
| DET | Disability Equality Training |
| ECEC | Early Childhood Education and Care |
| EMIS | Education Management Information System |
| EU | European Union |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence |
| HIV/AIDS | Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| ICT | Information and Communications Technology |
| IDA | International Disability Alliance |
| IDDC | International Disability and Development Consortium |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| INGOs | International Non-Governmental Organizations |
| MoH | Ministry of Health |
| MoEYS | Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport |
| MoLSA | Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs |
| MPTF | Multi-Partner Trust Fund |
| NSO | National Statistics Office |
| OHCHR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| OPDs | Organizations of persons with disabilities |
| PAHO | Pan-American Health Organization |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SRH | Sexual and Reproductive Health |
| UNCEDAW | United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| UNCT | United Nations Country Team |
| UNDESA | United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs |
| UNDIS | United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESCAP | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNWOMEN | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

Table of contents

| | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 4 | Foreword | 30 | Progress in cross cutting areas |
| 5 | UNPRPD Contributors | 31 | Engaging with organizations of persons with disabilities |
| 6 | Executive summary | 34 | Facilitating a partnership approach |
| 7 | About the UNPRPD | 37 | Advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities |
| 8 | Who we are | 40 | Awareness raising to tackle stigma and discrimination |
| 9 | Global disability context and how the UNPRPD is making a difference | 42 | Supporting disability mainstreaming, capacity building and knowledge management |
| 10 | How the UNPRPD works | 43 | Supporting disability mainstreaming efforts at the national level |
| 11 | UNPRPD implementing partners and governance structure | 45 | UNPRPD capacity building and knowledge management |
| 13 | Where the UNPRPD works | 49 | UNPRPD communication and visibility |
| 14 | UNPRPD investments from 2012 to 2019 | 50 | Next steps |
| 15 | UNPRPD achievements from 2012-2019 | | |
| 16 | Results in 2019 | | |
| 17 | Advancing legislative, policy frameworks and strategies | | |
| 22 | Building inclusive service delivery systems | | |
| 27 | Embedding accountability | | |



About the UNPRPD

More on page 7



Results in 2019

More on page 16



Progress in cross cutting areas

More on page 30



Supporting disability mainstreaming, capacity building and knowledge management

More on page 42



Next steps

More on page 50

Foreword

In the 13 years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), tremendous progress has been made towards realizing our goal of an inclusive future where persons with disabilities can participate as full members of society. Governments in 181 countries have ratified the CRPD, bilateral and multilateral donors have supported more inclusive policies and programming, and OPDs have been consulted more frequently with an increasingly prominent place in policy- and decision-making.

The United Nations has launched a new Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) to track progress on disability inclusion across all pillars of the UN's work, furthering the 2030 Agenda's substantive focus on leaving no one behind. The Sustainable Development Goals include four goals and seven targets that reference disability as part of its commitment to leave no one behind.

At the same time, countries and development actors are struggling with a lack of financial resources dedicated to disability inclusion along with gaps in knowledge and capacity. While the momentum for disability inclusive development is growing and new actors are increasingly becoming aware, the challenges of stigma and discrimination remain high.

This report shows how the UNPRPD is tackling many of these challenges. It collates progress in 2019 from 26 countries and shows the ways in which the UNPRPD supported UN Country Teams' (UNCT) efforts to enable the design, implementation and monitoring of inclusive policies and practices by governments. This includes promoting inclusive, CRPD-compliant legislative and policy frameworks in 12 countries and strengthening service delivery systems and programmes with the participation from OPDs. It also includes strengthening monitoring and accountability mechanisms to address discrimination at different levels, building linkages with broader national development programmes and flagship initiatives, and supporting the increase of UNCT capacities on disability inclusion.

Building multi-stakeholder and inter-sectoral partnerships has been crucial to the UNPRPD's success, for example through groups like the National Disability Forum in Namibia and the UN Thematic Group on Disability in China, which bring together key stakeholders across the disability field, including governments, OPDs, civil society and UN entities.

As the UN Decade of Action is launched and the changing priorities of a world staggering from the impact of COVID-19, the UNPRPD is fortified by its collaborative approach, the new UNDIS standards

for the UN system and the UNPRPD's forthcoming Strategic and Operational Framework, which will inform its ambitious work for the next five years and ensure that it is fit for purpose in meeting the new demands and needs at country, regional and global levels.

Moving forward, it is essential that the UNPRPD adopts a comprehensive intersectional approach that addresses the rights of women and girls with disabilities, in accordance with the UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on Disability. As the current Chair of the UNPRPD Policy Board, UN Women is committed to promoting gender-responsive disability inclusion together with our partners and beneficiaries. We have launched a disability inclusion strategy, *The empowerment of women and girls with disabilities: Towards full and effective participation and gender equality*. As a result of the UNPRPD, UN Women has seen a gradual increase in the capacities of our country offices to include persons with disabilities in their programmes. This trend must continue.

With another year of solid progress completed and a new strategic period ahead, it is my hope that the UNPRPD will continue to play a key role in supporting inter-agency joint programming efforts and collaboration to make inclusion and equality a full reality for all persons with disabilities.



Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka,
Executive Director
UN Women



© Kea Taylor

UNPRPD Contributors

Results in this publication would not have been possible without generous contributions to the UNPRPD Fund.



Government of Australia



Department for International Development (DFID),
United Kingdom



Government of Finland



Government of Norway



Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA)

Executive summary

The United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) is a unique collaborative initiative that brings together UN entities, governments, organizations of persons with disabilities, and the broader civil society to support the full implementation of the CRPD. This 8th Annual Report highlights UNPRPD's continued relevance and growing impact, particularly in light of 181 countries ratifying the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the UN Decade of Action to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This Report outlines the progress of the UNPRPD Fund in 2019 providing information on the initiatives implemented and the results achieved.

Between 2012-2019, the UNPRPD mobilized US\$39 million and funded 49 joint projects at country, regional and global levels to advance the implementation of the CRPD, influencing laws, policies and services to enhance the lives of 61 million persons with disabilities in more than 40 countries across all regions.¹ In 2019, the UNPRPD allocated US\$2.2² to support 2 additional countries (Djibouti and Dominican Republic) which were in pipeline for funding under the third UNPRPD funding round and 2 global initiatives on inclusive education and inclusive social protection.



A young woman with disability in Uruguay takes the floor to acknowledge the opportunity to participate in the joyful Inclusive Final Event of the Civil Society Coalition Alianza, organized in the framework of the UNPRPD project The rights to equality and non discrimination of persons with disabilities.
© Gustavo Gonzales – Alianza

In 2019, UNPRPD joint projects supported 29 processes to shift legislative and policy frameworks to advance the implementation of the CRPD and disability inclusive implementation of the SDGs. As a result, new laws, policies and strategies were adopted. This brings the total number of laws, policies and strategies influenced by UNPRPD-supported joint projects to 62 since 2012.

UNPRPD joint projects also supported 43 systemic level interventions in 2019 to improve the delivery of inclusive services in education, health, livelihoods, social protection and disability support services and to enhance accountability mechanisms through improved disability inclusive data collection systems and strengthened coordination and monitoring mechanisms in accordance with CRPD Article 33. This brings the total number of systemic changes supported through UNPRPD joint programmes since 2012 to 179.

Furthermore, UNPRPD supported 21 programmatic interventions in 2019 that specifically focused on advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities in particular addressing gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health rights.

Also, in 2019, 11,660 government officials, service providers, UN staff, and representatives from OPDs received training through UNPRPD projects. Trainings were delivered on a range of topics, including the implementation of the CRPD and disability inclusive implementation of the SDGs as well as on various sectoral issues. This brings the cumulative number of multi-stakeholder representatives trained through UNPRPD joint projects to over 64,800 since 2012. Additionally, 15 tools to guide inclusive laws, policies, services and accountability mechanisms were developed in 2019, strengthening the knowledge and capacities of UNPRPD stakeholders and informing future programming.

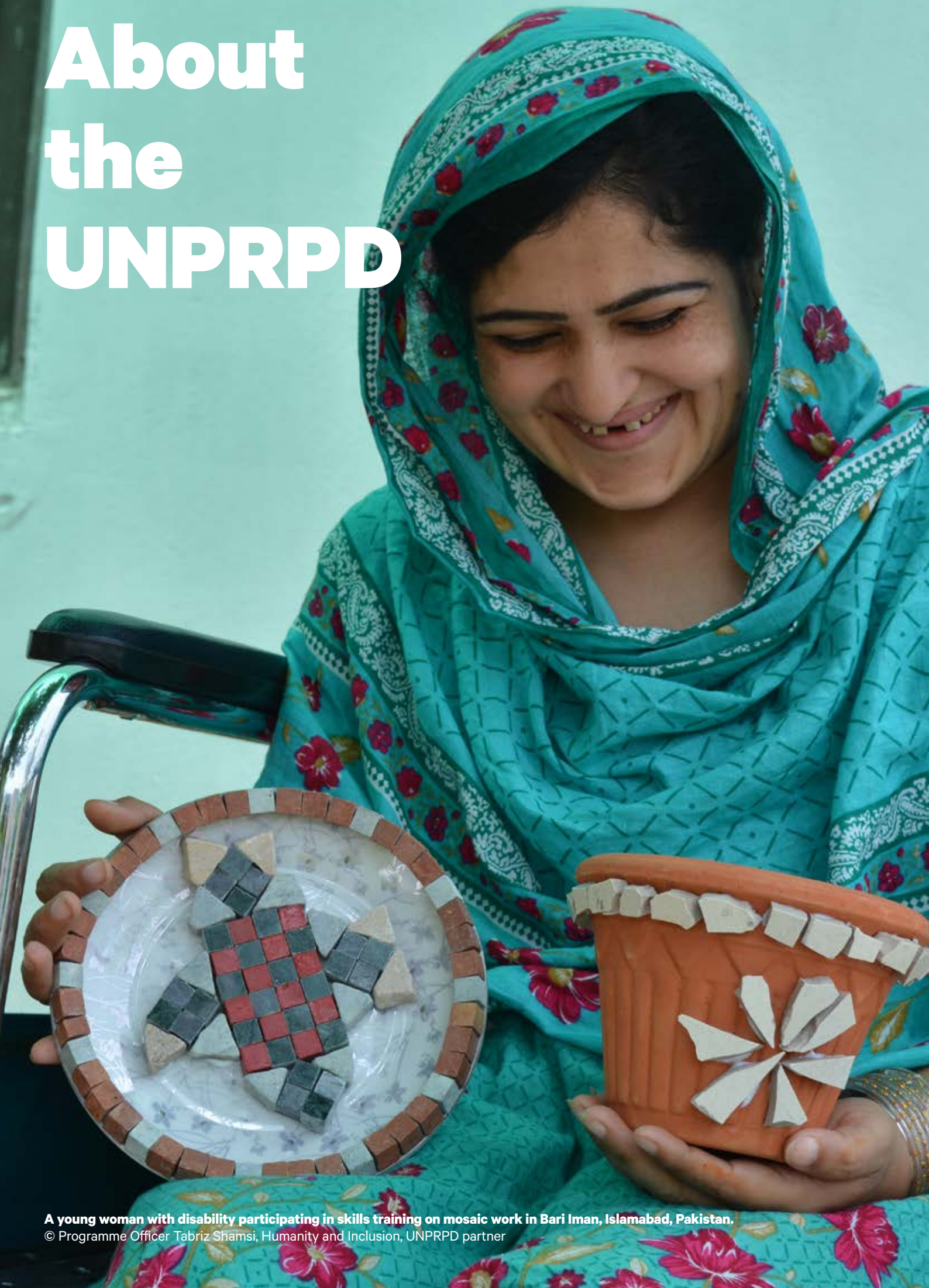
The key to these structural interventions and shifts is UNPRPD's multi-stakeholder partnership approach. In 2019, UNPRPD member UN entities engaged with more than 70 government bodies and authorities and nearly 70 organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as a range of representatives from CSOs, the private sector and academia.

As the UNPRPD embarks on its new five-year Strategy in 2020, there is significant progress on which to build, including strong partnerships; key advancements in new policies, services, and accountability mechanisms; and increased capacities of stakeholders responsible for implementing the CRPD and SDGs.

1. Number of persons with disabilities was recorded using sources from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/sconcerns/disability/statistics/#/countries>; <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/world-report-disability>. Prevalence % x Population (Year of Statistical Survey) was used to compute disability figures from the World Bank meta data on disability.

2. See 2019 UNPRPD Financial Report

About the UNPRPD



A young woman with disability participating in skills training on mosaic work in Bari Iman, Islamabad, Pakistan.

© Programme Officer Tabriz Shamsi, Humanity and Inclusion, UNPRPD partner

Who we are

The United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) is a unique collaborative effort that brings together UN entities, governments, organizations of persons with disabilities and the broader civil society. The UNPRPD supports the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The UN entities participating in the UNPRPD are the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the World Health Organization (WHO). UNDP also serves as the Technical Secretariat for the UNPRPD.

Core principles of the UNPRPD

- Human rights, including full and effective participation of persons with disabilities
- Gender equality
- Accessibility
- Multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnership development
- 'Delivering as One' within the UN system

UNPRPD levers of change

In pursuing its objectives, the UNPRPD engages three primary levers of change:



Promotion of normative environments

Legislative and cultural norms- that promote the rights of persons with disabilities



Coalition-building

Among multiple stakeholders through a partnership approach



Capacity strengthening

Of key actors to advance the rights of persons with disabilities

Global disability context and how the UNPRPD is making a difference

The context

Over 15 percent of the global population experiences some form of disability.³ Persons with disabilities are often denied the right to fully participate in the economy and society, and consequently are more likely to experience adverse socio-economic outcomes, such as lower levels of the following:



Persons with disabilities, and their households, are more likely to live in poverty as compared to persons without disabilities⁴



x3

Persons with disabilities are roughly three times more likely to be unable to get healthcare than persons without disabilities⁴



80%

80% of persons with disabilities who have needed social protection services could not receive them⁴



54%

54% of persons with disabilities are literate compared to 77% of persons without disabilities⁴



90%

More than 90% of persons with disabilities who need legal advice are not able to receive it⁴

The extent of marginalization is further exacerbated by intersectional discrimination on grounds such as gender, age, race and ethnic origin. For example, women with disabilities are three times more likely to have unmet needs for healthcare, three times more likely to be illiterate, two times less likely to be employed and two times less likely to use the Internet.⁵

Acknowledging the widespread discrimination and exclusion faced by persons with disabilities, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the CRPD in 2006 to 'protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.'

The CRPD is one of the fastest ratified international human rights treaties thus far. To date, 181 States have ratified the CRPD and nine States have signed the treaty.

Although most countries have ratified the CRPD, there are gaps in translating the CRPD's obligations into meaningful change for persons with disabilities, especially for the most marginalized groups of persons with disabilities.

The UNPRPD's goal

In order for the CRPD to be realized and for the Sustainable Development Goals to be implemented, multi-stakeholder partnerships between governments, OPDs, UN entities and other partners are needed to engineer the structural shifts necessary for a more inclusive society. The UNPRPD, therefore, brings together UN entities to jointly build capacities and support country level legislative and systems change in close collaboration with OPDs and governments.

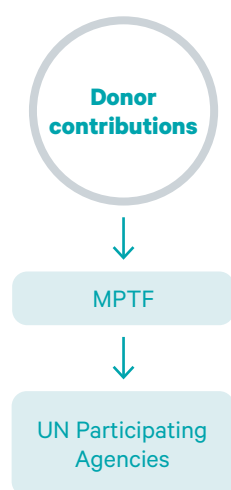
3. World Health Organization. World report on disability 2011. World Health Organization, 2011.

4. All UN DESA (2019), Disability and Development Report 2018: Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities, UN, New York, <https://doi.org/10.18356/a0b1b1d1-en>.

5. Ibid.

How the UNPRPD works

The UNPRPD supports joint programmes by UN agencies to advance the implementation of the CRPD through:



A UN inter-agency pooled fund

The UNPRPD operates through a multi partner trust fund (MPTF), which is a pooled fund that receives contributions from multiple financial partners and allocates these resources. The UNPRPD funds are allocated to UN entities who are members to support national, regional or global joint projects to advance the implementation of the CRPD. By avoiding duplication of operating procedures, this pass-through mechanism minimizes implementation delays and transaction costs. Contributions to the UNPRPD trust fund are administered by the Multi Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office), which acts as the trustee of the UNPRPD trust fund.

One UN approach to disability

The UNPRPD responds to the complexity of disability by integrating the different competencies of several UN entities into a common programmatic platform. The UNPRPD support to joint programming produces several benefits, including reducing overlaps, maximizing synergies within the UN system and facilitating common learning across multiple organizations to operationalize the CRPD.

Effectiveness, efficiency and innovation are generated as a result of integrating the strengths of various UN entities. All UNPRPD country-level projects are developed by UNCTs, and the UN Resident Coordinator retains programmatic oversight of

UNPRPD-funded initiatives, although project development and implementation is likely to be delegated to two or more specialized lead agencies from among UNPRPD participating UN entities.

Workstreams

The UNPRPD works at the country, regional and global levels to advance the implementation of the CRPD through three separate and complementary workstreams.

Country-level projects which comprise the majority of joint projects funded by the UNPRPD focuses on policy and legislative change and access to services. Under the last funding round, country level projects had an initial budget envelope of US\$ 400,000.

Regional-level programmes are intended to strengthen the voices of persons with disabilities at the regional level. While funds are channeled through participating organizations, the objective is to build the organizational capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities.

Global-level initiatives are aimed at developing global knowledge tools which can be used to support countries in their efforts to advance disability inclusion. In 2019, the UNPRPD funded two global initiatives through an enhanced multi-country approach and included validation and testing of tools.

“This UNPRPD project has been a good example of how different UN Agencies can deliver as one by bringing together their various areas of expertise, based on their mandates. Joint planning and building on each other’s work has been a perfect illustration of how disability inclusion and rights issues, as an intersectoral and interdisciplinary issue per se, can highly benefit from the whole-of-the-UN approach and support to Member States.”

Maria Ribeiro
UN Resident Coordinator
Zimbabwe

UNPRPD implementing partners and governance structure

UNPRPD Implementing Partners

The main UNPRPD members and implementing partners are the 9 participating UN organizations (ILO, OHCHR, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, WHO) which undertake joint programming to advance CRPD implementation. Governments are key implementing partners in UNPRPD projects at country level. Depending on the projects' focus, different line ministers and government entities are involved in addition to OPDs in UNPRPD projects.

In some countries, other UN entities who are not UNPRPD members have implemented UNPRPD joint programmes, such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) within the Pacific Enable project and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) in the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

UNPRPD governance

The governance structure of the UNPRPD includes a Policy Board, a Steering Committee, a Technical Secretariat, and an Administrative Agent (AA) at the global level.

The Policy Board is a high-level body responsible for setting the strategic direction of the UNPRPD. The Policy Board is also responsible for providing guidance and support to the implementation of UNPRPD activities.

The Policy Board is comprised of the following members: ILO, OHCHR, UNDESA, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WHO as UN representatives; Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland as donor representatives; International

Disability Alliance (IDA) and International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) as civil society representatives.

In 2019, the Policy Board met in June, and UN Women was selected as the rotating Chair to serve from June 2019 June 2020.

The Management Committee is a working-level, standing committee of the Policy Board responsible for providing guidance and support to the implementation of UNPRPD activities. Representatives are from the same members and constituencies as in the Policy Board. The Management Committee reviews project proposals and decides on the allocation of UNPRPD funds. In 2019, the Management Committee carried out its activities remotely on a bimonthly basis. Decisions were taken on project approvals under the global workstream and on no cost extension requests for projects.

The Technical Secretariat is hosted by the UNDP Governance Team in New York and operates under the oversight of the Policy Board as well as the Management Committee for the matters that the Board delegates to the Management Committee. The Technical Secretariat is mainly responsible for providing direct technical support to joint programmes, including undertaking technical missions, monitoring quality assurance processes, coordinating and implementing knowledge management and capacity building activities, leading on the UNPRPD resource mobilization, coordinating and implementing communications and visibility of UNPRPD activities. The Technical Secretariat's human resources was strengthened in 2019 with the appointment of a manager and two programme specialists. The Technical Secretariat Manager, Ola Abualghaib, was appointed in August 2019.



Policy Board meeting 2019, New York. © UNPRPD

The Administrative Agent (AA) is the appointed interface between the participating UN organizations and the donors concerning administrative matters. The UNDP MPTF Office is the Administrative Agent for the UNPRPD. The AA is mainly responsible for receiving, administering, and managing

contributions from donors; disbursing funds to participating UN organizations based on resource allocation decisions of the Management Committee (as endorsed by the Chair of the Policy Board); and consolidating annual and final financial reports from the participating UN organizations.

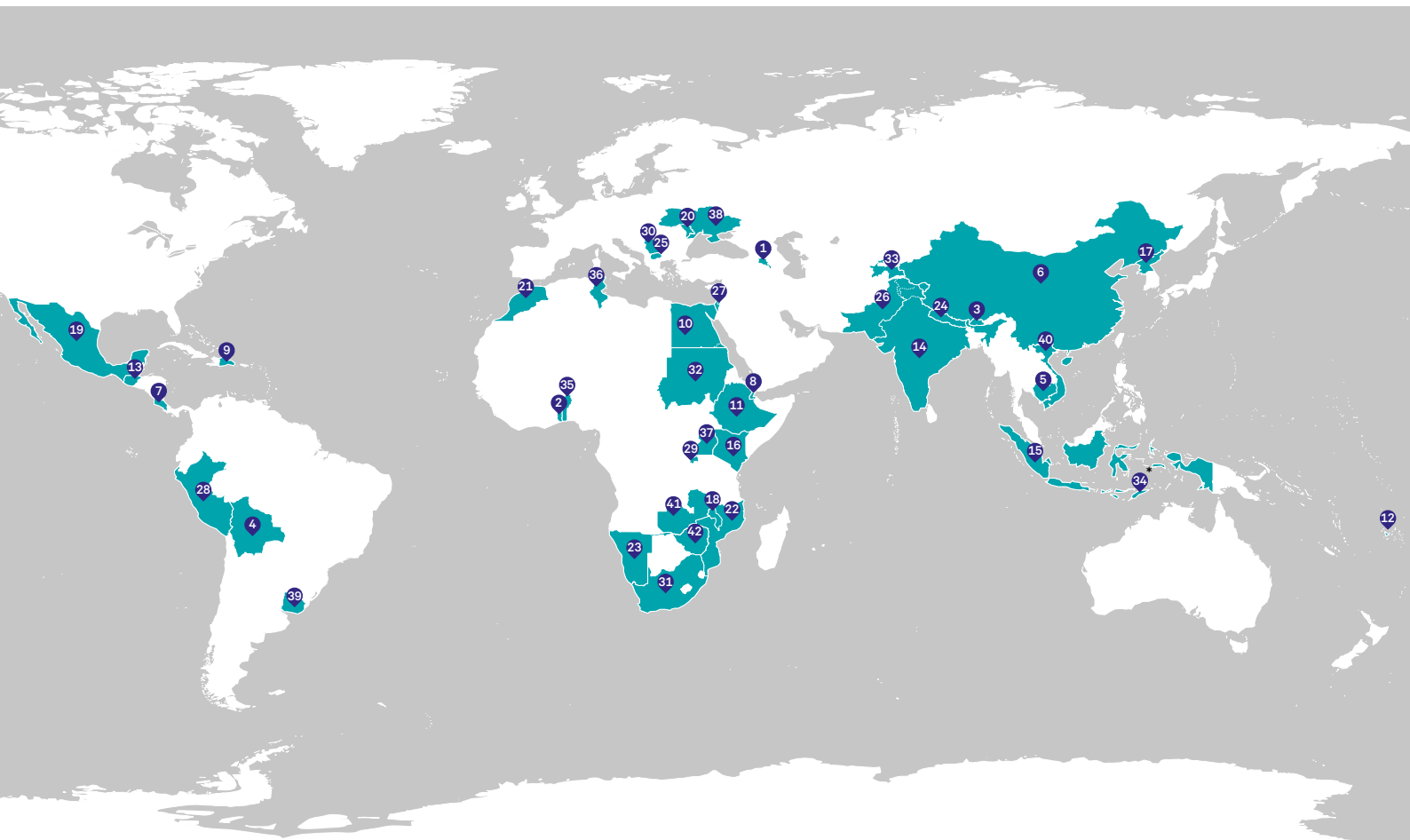
Where the UNPRPD works

The UNPRPD has supported 39 country level joint projects on CRPD implementation across all regions, as well as three regional level programmes, aiding umbrella OPDs such as the African Disability Forum in Africa and Pacific Disability Forum in the Pacific.

In addition, seven global initiatives have been supported, providing core guidance on key strategic issues, for example, on disability statistics, inclusive social protection, inclusive education, and others.

1. **Armenia**
2. **Benin**
3. **Bhutan**
4. **Bolivia**
(Plurinational State of)
5. **Cambodia**
6. **China**
7. **Costa Rica**
8. **Djibouti**
9. **Dominican Republic**
10. **Egypt**
11. **Ethiopia**
12. **Fiji**
13. **Guatemala**
14. **India**
15. **Indonesia**
16. **Kenya**
17. **Korea (Democratic**
People's Rep. of)
18. **Malawi**
19. **Mexico**
20. **Moldova (Republic of)**
21. **Morocco**
22. **Mozambique**
23. **Namibia**
24. **Nepal**
25. **North Macedonia**
26. **Pakistan**
27. **Palestine, State of**
28. **Peru**
29. **Rwanda**
30. **Serbia**
31. **South Africa**
32. **Sudan**
33. **Tajikistan**
34. **Timor-Leste***
35. **Togo**
36. **Tunisia**
37. **Uganda**
38. **Ukraine**
39. **Uruguay**
40. **Viet Nam**
41. **Zambia**
42. **Zimbabwe**

* CRPD not ratified



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Only Individual Member States, and not their territories, are highlighted for the purpose of this map. Dotted lines represent approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.

UNPRPD investments from 2012 to 2019⁶

US\$39

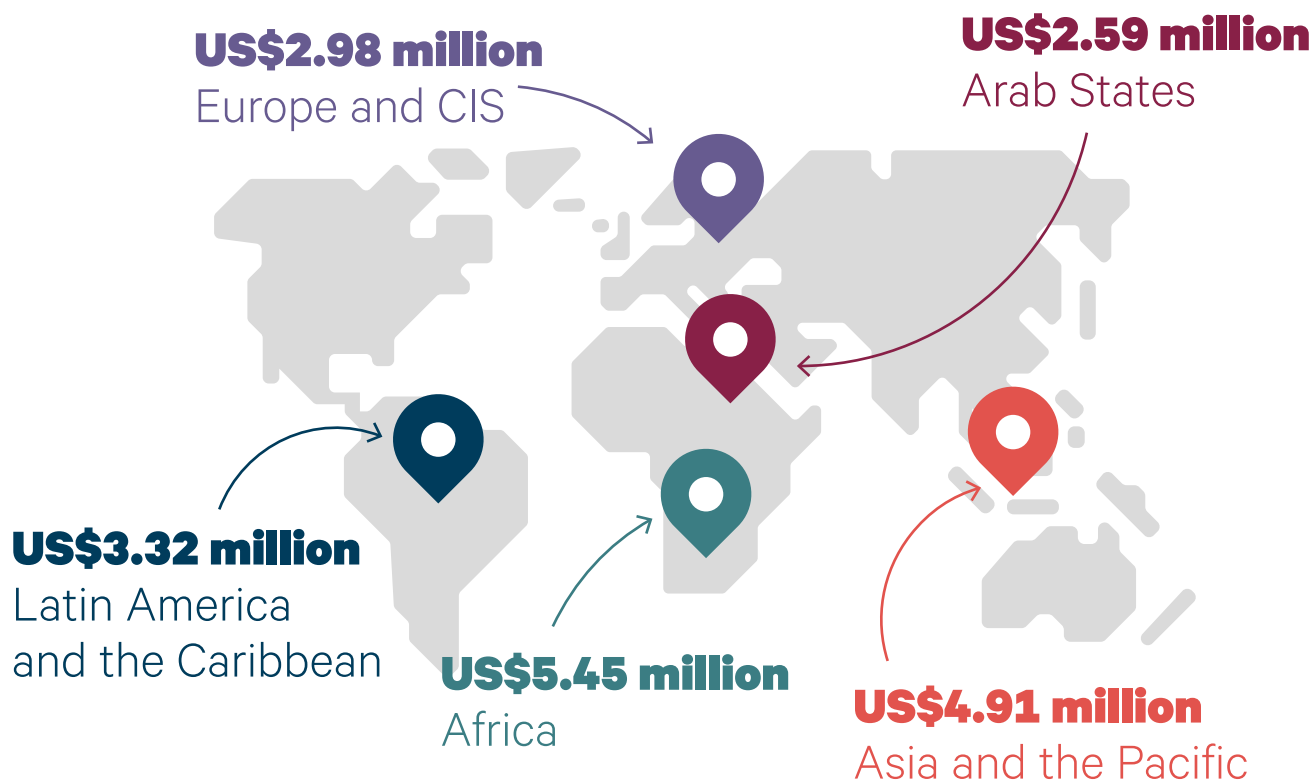
million mobilized
to advance CRPD
implementation



US\$17.5 million
transferred to
39 country programmes

US\$2.3 million
transferred to
7 global projects

US\$1.1 million
transferred to
3 regional projects



UNPRPD achievements from 2012-2019

Supported **49 joint UN programmes** in five regions, influencing government policies and programmes to enhance the access of **61 million persons**⁷ with disabilities to inclusive services

UNPRPD-funded
programmes led to
the adoption of

62
laws and policies

UNPRPD programmes
have supported

179
system-level changes
leading to more inclusive
services and data collection
systems

Trained over

64,800
**government
representatives
OPDs and UN entities**
on disability inclusion

68
OPDs

participated in legislative, policy
and system-level changes
to advance the implementation
of the CRPD

7. Number of persons with disabilities was recorded using sources from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/sconcerns/disability/statistics/#/countries>; <https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/dataset/world-report-disability>. Prevalence % x Population(Year of Statistical Survey) was used to compute disability figures from the World Bank meta data on disability.

Results in 2019



An eight year-old girl with a learning disability engaging in an inclusive classroom at a school in Armenia. © UNICEF Armenia

Advancing legislative, policy frameworks and strategies

Depending on how well they are drafted and implemented, laws and policies may create barriers to or facilitate the rights of persons with disabilities, as enshrined in the CRPD. The UNPRPD focuses primarily on structural change to facilitate the implementation of the CRPD. Fundamental to bringing about this structural shift is the creation of an enabling legislative and policy framework in compliance with the CRPD. The UNPRPD enables national governments to domesticate the CRPD by adopting CRPD standards and mainstreaming disability perspectives into laws, policies and strategies. This can be achieved through legislative reviews, technical analysis to advance CRPD ratification, amendments to existing laws and formulation of new laws and policies.



An independent life instructor and persons with disabilities interact in the Dominican Republic.

Overall progress in 2019

12 out of the 26 countries that reported in 2019 (46 percent) outlined that they supported 29 legislative and policy change processes to implement the CRPD through legislative reviews, amendments to existing laws, and new laws, policies or strategies. This included national disability laws and policies as well as disability mainstreaming within sector-specific laws and policies, culminating in a wide range of normative change processes, including:

- Amendments to constitutional provisions
- Parliamentary declarations and resolutions, paving the way for CRPD ratification
- Formulation and adoption of national disability policies and strategies
- Disability mainstreaming in sector-specific laws and policies, for example on education, legal aid, etc.
- Specific legal and policy reforms to promote the rights of the most marginalized groups of persons with disabilities, such as women and girls with disabilities, persons with intellectual disabilities, and persons with psychosocial disabilities

The following sections provide examples of these legislative and policy changes. The participation of OPDs in these change processes remained at the core and was perhaps as important as the concrete changes to the laws and policies. The section on OPD participation in this report elaborates on this further.

Examples of progress

Constitutional amendment

A major achievement in 2019 was the modification of the National Constitution of **Benin** which now acknowledges persons with disabilities under Article 26. In 2018, the UNPRPD project supported the drafting of nine decrees to advance the rights of persons with disabilities. The new amendment to the Constitution will accelerate and ensure the approval of these nine legal decrees which are being studied by the legal unit of the Presidency to be introduced in the Council of Ministers.

Advancing CRPD ratification

In October 2019, the Parliament of Timor Leste passed that resolution No 21/2019 with 12 strategic provisions that promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including ratification of the CRPD and a gender-responsive policy that promotes the inclusion of women with disabilities. This was a major achievement for UNPRPD project partners. The national umbrella OPD, Timor-Leste Disability Association (ADTL), led advocacy efforts aimed at Parliamentarians, resulting in the adoption of this Parliamentary declaration that commits to greater focus on persons with disabilities. The declaration is based on the UNPRPD supported guidance on how to integrate disability into laws and policies. Furthermore, the Ministries of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and Legislative Reform and Parliamentary Affairs concluded that Timor-Leste is ready to ratify the CRPD. Adoption of the necessary legislation was also included in the government's upcoming legislative agenda.

Legislative reviews for CRPD domestication

In **Benin**, a legislative review and analysis on the rights of persons with disabilities was conducted, and a participatory workshop was organized to validate the review. The workshop brought together multiple stakeholders representing different sectors of the Beninese administration including, the Social Affairs and Microfinance Ministry, the General Directorate of Labour, and Ministries of Nursery and Primary Education, Secondary Education and Vocational Training, Health, Small and Medium Enterprises, Living Environment and Sustainable Development, Sports, Security, along with the Beninese Federation of Associations of People with Disabilities.

In the Pacific Islands, steady progress was made towards developing legislative frameworks aligned with the CRPD. Legislative reviews were initiated, and each is progressing at different pace for the **Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Federated States of Micronesia**. Once concluded, these four national reviews will bring the total completion of reviews under the UNPRPD regional project to seven, laying the foundation for domestication of the CRPD in the Pacific Islands.

12

Countries
of the 26 countries
that reported in 2019



29

Legislative and policy
change processes





Group photo of the participants of Disability Equality Training (DET), Paro-Bhutan. Participants were from CSOs, government organizations and UN system in Bhutan. © Dechen Wangmo, UNDP

With decentralization of planning and budgeting, it is increasingly important to engage in policy-making at the sub-national level. In **Nepal**, several policy dialogues were organized in 2019 that increased understanding of the situation of persons with disabilities at the sub-national level. In 2019, reviews of existing policies and laws of the Sudurpashchim Province were conducted, case studies about discriminatory practices were collected, and a media monitoring report of the situation of persons with disabilities in Sudurpashchim Province is underway. The final documents are expected to inform the policy dialogue and the newly established disability coordination committee, which includes representation from all line ministries and representatives from OPDs.

In **Tajikistan**, seven laws were reviewed to consider the inclusion of persons with disabilities across a range of topics, such as social services, social protection, veterans affairs, state procurement, prevention of violence and child rights.

In **Tunisia** and **Guatemala** legislative review processes were initiated. In Tunisia, a gap analysis study was conducted with the aim of gathering national legislative texts and verifying their compliance with the Constitution and the CRPD. In Guatemala, dialogue and analysis of existing laws was initiated.

National disability laws, policies and strategies

Drafting of the Disability Bill (2019) in **Malawi** was supported through a UNPRPD country level joint project to ensure that national laws comply with the CRPD. The draft Bill spells out the rights of persons with disabilities and nominates the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as the independent mechanism to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the CRPD. In addition, the NHRC shall have powers to investigate any violation of the Disability Act and shall periodically review compliance with the Act by all of the relevant authorities or institutions. A taskforce was created to facilitate the review of the National Policy on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities comprising of key government ministries, departments and agencies; disability experts; human rights institutions; academia and OPDs.

In **Bhutan**, the first National Policy for Persons with Disabilities was prepared and approved in August 2019, and the first National Action Plan for the implementation of this policy is being developed by the lead agency, the Gross National Happiness Commission, based on the plans and policies of the Ministries of Health and Education, the National Commission for Women and Children and civil society. The National Policy highlights the risks that women and girls with disabilities face and calls on relevant stakeholders to ensure their fundamental rights. For example, the Policy calls on the Ministry of Education to take into consideration the advancement of the rights of children and women with disabilities in all education policies, plans and programmes; the Ministry of Health is urged to take appropriate additional measures to ensure women and children with disabilities have full and equal access to the highest available standard of health services the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources shall develop self-employment programmes and introduce vocational and needs-based training programmes for persons with disabilities taking into consideration the needs of women and girls, and the government is to encourage the participation of women and girls with disabilities as leaders and decision makers.

Sectoral laws and policies

In 2019, access to justice for persons with disabilities was included in **Cambodia's** National Disability Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023, which was launched by the Prime Minister in December 2019. Approximately 2,500 persons with disabilities attended the event. The National Policy on Legal Aid supported by the UNPRPD-funded country level project is the first inclusive legal aid policy in the country that involved persons with disabilities at all stages of development.

The national law on primary education and corresponding by-laws in **North Macedonia** have been enacted to support the inclusion of students with disabilities in 2019.

Advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities in the legislative and policy framework

In **Bhutan**, the 2019 review of the Gender Equality Policy through the lens of disability ensured equal participation between women and men to more firmly secure the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

In **Benin**, the UNPRPD-funded project supported the alignment of the National Policy for the Promotion of Gender (PNPG) with the CRPD in two stages to better secure the rights of women and girls with disabilities. The first stage focused on the drafting of the document with input from the wider public, including persons with disabilities. The second stage involved a technical committee to finalize the report that will influence next steps in aligning the PNPG with the CRPD.

Including the autonomy of persons with disabilities in the legal architecture of Serbia

The strategic and legal framework and the national context of Serbia has significantly affected the autonomy, participation and visibility of persons with disabilities, particularly persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities. For years, civil society and international institutions have been calling for reforms to this system and to adopt a framework that complies with the CRPD, especially Article 12. This complex system, which includes strategic frameworks, laws and by-laws, was based on the medical model to disability in which deprivations of legal capacity were determined by a written medical diagnosis without participation or input from persons with disabilities affected by the diagnosis.

The UNPRPD-funded Serbia project harnessed strategic partnerships including with the line ministries, OPDs and civil society organizations with further participation of Parliament, National Employment Services, the national human rights institution, and the Equality Commissioner. The project was UN-led, building bridges between State and non-State actors, which was an added value and comparative advantage. In addition, the project was rooted in a set of international standards, and clear guidance was provided to the Serbian government through the CRPD Committee review of Serbia which increased the likelihood of success and enabled the UN to convene stakeholders, offer expertise, and ensure full participation from the rights-holders and non-State organizations.

The UNPRPD project results include:

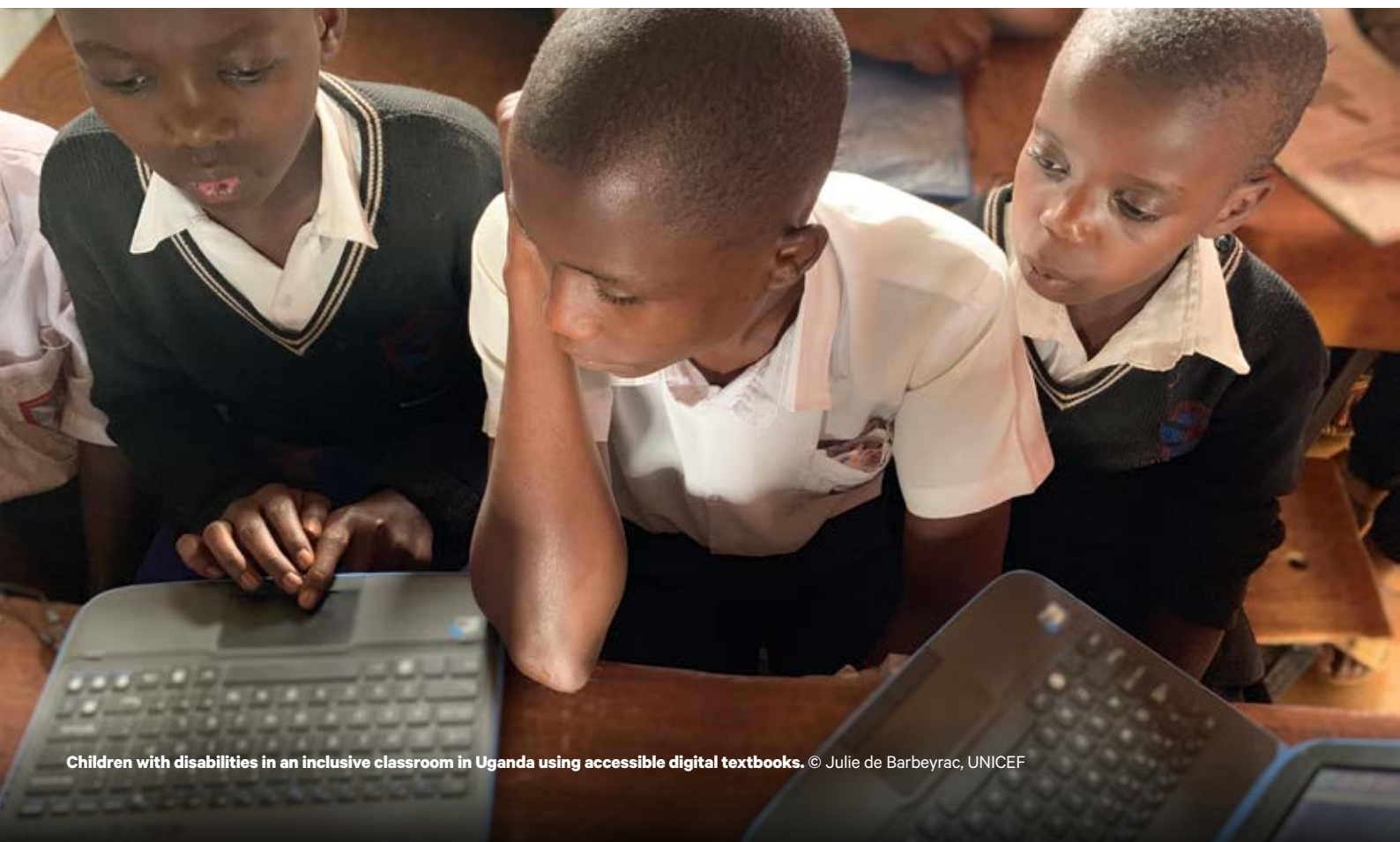
- Technical support to the government of Serbia to amend the Family Law section on legal capacity and support the first consultations between OPDs, civil society, government officials, academic experts and UN entities to discuss the models of legal capacity reform. The proposed Family Law amendments abolish full deprivation of legal capacity and remove the basis of legal capacity restriction on impairment type.
- Increased capacity of civil society to review case-law on legal capacity deprivation through practical examples and mapping of key barriers in judicial processes.
- The first ever judgement of the Court of Cassation was issued, restoring the legal capacity of the plaintiff, and an expert report has been produced outlining the factors of success.
- Two civil society advocacy campaigns for legal capacity reforms have been conducted with the technical and financial support of the UN Human Rights Team, building the capacities of self-advocates, including the empowerment of young persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with psychosocial disabilities to advocate for their legal capacity rights.



Consultations for the National Disability Strategy including legal capacity provisions at the UN Country Team in Belgrade, Serbia.
© UN Human Rights Team Serbia

Building inclusive service delivery systems

The UNPRPD supports national governments to translate laws and policies into practical services that are inclusive of persons with disabilities and which ensure the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities aligned with the CRPD. This entails system-strengthening efforts across a wide variety of sectors, including education, early identification and intervention, livelihoods and skills development, health and cross-sectoral issues that serve as critical preconditions for disability inclusion, such as personal support services, disability assessment, inclusive budgeting, assistive technology and more.



Overall progress in 2019

In 2019, 26 countries reported improvements in system-strengthening through interventions across 7 different sectors as well as through inter-sectoral services.

Examples of progress

Building inclusive education systems

In 2019, the UNPRPD-funded project in **Timor Leste** facilitated two comprehensive education sector assessments with Ministries of Education and Health: 1) to meet the educational needs of children and adolescents with disabilities in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and 2) to support existing health-sector activities and support services (including referral mechanisms) for survivors of GBV with disabilities jointly with the Ministry of Health.

As a result, the Ministry of Education integrated specific actions to improve access to education for children with disabilities and included the Inclusive Education Policy in the next Education Sector Plan. The Education Sector Plan also incorporates recommendations for the reduction of GBV and violence and discrimination against children with disabilities.

In **North Macedonia**, 46 school inspectors were trained to evaluate and advise on school inclusion practices in collaboration with the State Education Inspectorate. The school inspectors were provided with tools and methods, including approaches for evaluating the inclusiveness of schools. Based on the evaluations, they produced an annual report outlining the strengths and weaknesses of schools regarding disability inclusion which will be used as a monitoring and planning tool.

Modeling and legislating support services for learners with disabilities in North Macedonia

A model of personal support and educational assistance services for learners with disabilities enrolled in mainstream schools was developed through the UNPRPD project. As a result, 600 children with disabilities enjoy the right to education on an equal basis with others. This model was recognized by the Ministry of Education and it is now incorporated in the new Law for Primary Education enacted in 2019.



600

Children enjoy the right to education through the new inclusive education law which also includes support services

Expanding access to health and rehabilitation

In **Nepal**, accessibility was incorporated into the Hospital Safety Index (HSI) and a participatory audit of the physical, informational and service access barriers for persons with disabilities was completed at the four major hub hospitals in 2019. Based on the findings, a national toolkit for auditing accessibility of health facilities was drafted to inform both routine and emergency operations. The recommendations of the assessment have also been integrated into the hospital disaster preparedness and response plan.

Also, in Nepal, a situational assessment of rehabilitation services has been carried out as a first step towards developing a strategic plan on rehabilitation in line with a WHO Global initiative, *Rehab 2030: A call for action*. The strategic plan will integrate accessible rehabilitation services into health systems within the federal government's structure. The assessment was carried out using WHO assessment tools, such as the *Standard Assessment of Rehabilitation Situation*, through extensive stakeholder consultation, field visits, interviews and focus group discussions both at the national and provincial level. A high-level multi-stakeholder workshop was organized in December 2019 to finalize a composite, customized and comprehensive rapid toolkit to assess safety, functioning of hospitals in emergencies, and barriers for persons with disabilities in Nepal. WHO led the team of stakeholders, which included government, National Federation of Disabled – Nepal, Humanity and Inclusion, academic and research institutions who were responsible for developing parameters on disability inclusion and emergency rehabilitation in the toolkit. Some of the questions were also integrated into the Hospital Safety Index checklist and a sub-module was created for emergency rehabilitation preparedness (which includes large scale, sudden-onset disasters and routine, day-to-day emergencies). The first draft of the report is being reviewed by the Ministry of Health and Population and other stakeholders.

In **Zambia**, with the UNPRPD support at the provincial level, the Luapula Provincial Health Office conducted trainings of 28 healthcare providers on disability inclusion, focusing on SRH, HIV/AIDS and GBV services, as well as communicating with Sign Language. A further 90 third year nursing students were trained on basic sign language.

In the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, an early childhood disability screening tool for assessing physical disabilities was developed in partnership with Jongju hospital staff and Humanity and Inclusion. Approximately 1,500 sets of screening tools have been provided to the Jongju City Ri clinics and Jongju City Hospital. The tool was introduced to at least 25 Ri clinic and hospital healthcare professionals during practical training sessions where they learned how to use the tool. In addition to the physical disability screening tool, several other related tools are under development, including a protocol



167

Women with disabilities gained vocational skills for economic independence

on early screening and intervention, technical guidelines and additional screening tools for early identification of delayed childhood development milestones.

Inclusive livelihoods, employment and skill-building

Recognizing the need for economic independence as a pathway for empowering women with disabilities in **Pakistan**, a needs assessment was conducted through the UNPRPD-funded project. It included consultations with women with disabilities on skill-building and livelihood choices based on their interests. As a result, 167 women with disabilities gained skills through training in locally relevant livelihood options. Connections were also made between women with disabilities and the Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, private businesses, and the Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) to encourage them to support women with disabilities to access employment and skills training opportunities.

The project worked with 17 public and private employers at the provincial level to explore inclusive employment opportunities for women with disabilities and to support connections to OPDs. The businesses were also linked with Employment Exchange Commission of Pakistan for access to data on qualified candidates with disabilities at the district level.

Similarly, in **Peru**, the UNPRPD-funded project has worked in five local districts, including Villa El Salvador, Miraflores, Lince, San Martín de Porres and Ventanilla, and with the Municipal Offices for Attention to Persons with Disabilities (OMAPED) and the Economic Development Management Departments to develop a management model to improve employability and access to work for persons with disabilities, with a specific focus on women with disabilities.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and the National Council for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (CONADIS), project partners produced a collection of good practices and experiences of persons with disabilities in employment with an emphasis on local experiences. A study was then carried out to identify the barriers that persons with disabilities face when seeking and transitioning into employment, in particular women with disabilities. The study proposed recommendations to overcome barriers to employment and determined the training needs of municipal officials in order to promote access to inclusive employment with emphasis on officials from the OMAPEDs and job centers, training interests of persons with disabilities, and obstacles faced by companies in hiring persons with disabilities.

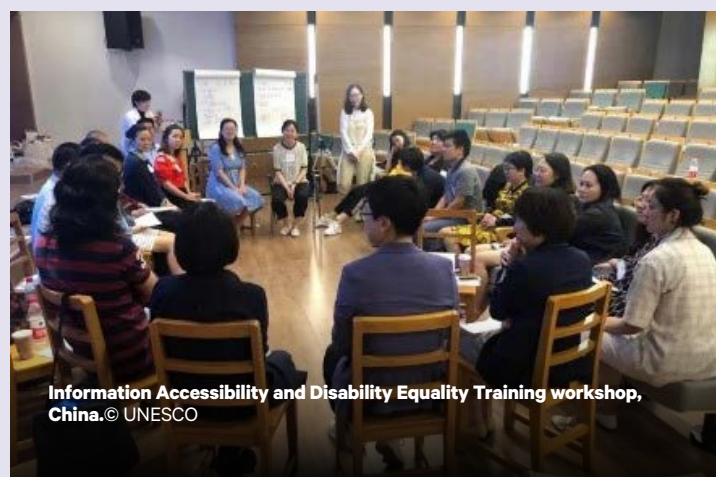
Based on the study, a summary guide of the barriers and possible solutions was produced to inform the local municipalities. In addition, employability training on soft and hard skills is underway for 300 persons with disabilities (41 percent of those who have completed training are women with disabilities).

Global Business and Disability Network of China: a collaborative of inclusive business practices

The Global Business and Disability Network (GBDN) of China launched a Job application (App) to register job seekers with disabilities and job vacancies. It reached more than 19,300 persons with disabilities, 150 service providers, and 17 hiring entities. 450 job seekers (65 percent men with disabilities and 35 percent women with disabilities) have already received job offers from GBDN members. The Network of businesses have gained more confidence and mastery in disability inclusive employment. Some activities included ensuring workers with disabilities and their families receive support within and outside the workplace, setting up accessible factory workshops and / or positions for workers with disabilities, and initiating training courses tailored to the employers' and job seekers' needs. The members have highlighted the critical importance of working with OPDs, job skills training providers, and universities.



Media Communications and Disability Equality Training workshop, China: exploring the idea of inclusion and integration. © UNESCO



Information Accessibility and Disability Equality Training workshop, China. © UNESCO

Building inclusive social protection systems

In **Zambia**, a “single window” service center was established to make social protection services more accessible to persons with disabilities and to improve coordination of services in Samfya District. The Single Windows pilot initiative aimed to enhance harmonization and coordination of social protection programmes and services through a multi-sectoral approach with inter-ministerial cooperation at

district level. The project focused on facilitating an exchange of information and building coherence in programming across social protection programmes, establishing common dissemination and outreach platforms, introducing harmonized targeting approaches and mechanisms, establishing common procedures for integrated registration, managing referral and case management systems and providing a first point of contact for complaints and the appeals process.

The UNPRPD global project on disability inclusive social protection

This two-year global initiative was launched in 2019 and implemented by ILO and UNICEF. The aim of the project is to develop capacities across countries and stakeholders, such as OPDs, development agencies and academia, to support the development and reform of inclusive and CRPD-compliant social protection systems. The project also aims to foster inclusion and empowerment in line with ILO standards, in particular the Social Protection Floors Recommendation (No 202) and the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention (No. 102). In 2019, stakeholder capacities were built through several workshops on critical areas, such as accessibility and non-discrimination of social protection systems; disability assessment and eligibility determination; linking social protection to economic empowerment, work and employment; data collection and information systems; gender equality; inclusion of children with disabilities; development of community support services; and adaptive social protection in humanitarian intervention and disaster risk reduction. In addition, a workshop was organized jointly with the Asian Development Bank and IDA in the Philippines during the Asia Pacific Social Protection Week in September 2019, inviting OPDs (77 participants from 33 countries).

Moving forward, the project will support evidence-based technical consensus building to develop technical resources and enhance CRPD-compliant inclusive social protection. This will include a collaborative review of the Inter-Agency Social Protection Assessment (ISPA) tools for disability mainstreaming, developing working papers on critical issues, assessing the activities of OPDs in social protection reform, providing joint learning and technical assistance with pioneering countries, and facilitating exchange among social protection and disability specialists from countries and development agencies. The project will also support a webinar on a disability inclusive social protection response to COVID-19 in Southeast Asia in 2020.



During the year, through project activities, technical input was provided to:

53

OPDs from 25 countries

23

Government officials

75

Development agencies and INGO staff

25

Social protection specialists

Enhancing access to assistive technology

In **Bhutan**, WHO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, has finalized an essential list of assistive technology products through a consultative workshop in May 2019. In addition, through the UNPRPD funding the Ministry of Education is supporting supply of critical assistive devices for children with disabilities, which is likely to enhance the quality of their learning. In 2019, capacity building was delivered to physiotherapists and wheelchair users along with their carers on basic maintenance of wheelchairs and to encourage further training of service providers and people who use wheelchairs in the country.

In **Pakistan**, a needs assessment for 200 women with disabilities was conducted to enable the provision of assistive devices. As a result, the requirements of 65 women with disabilities who needed assistive devices were identified, highlighting the central importance of conducting these assessments for assistive devices to support participation.

In **Timor Leste**, WHO worked with Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne, to support the national needs assessment study for assistive devices and to develop a draft national priority assistive product list. The assessment laid out a roadmap to further improve access to assistive devices and to strengthen the distribution system, recommending an assistive products list beyond mobility products. The national priority assistive product list was drafted based on best practices worldwide and WHO guidance, focusing on the Five 'Ps': People, products, provision, personnel and policy. The assessment involved the National Rehabilitation Center, the National Hospital, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, the National Police, NGOs and OPDs, as well as the procurement system in country. This was followed by a multi-sectoral workshop in October 2019, involving 60 stakeholders representing diverse sectors, and 15 (9 women, 6 men) were persons with disabilities.

The UNPRPD initiative on inclusive education through access to information and accessible digital textbooks

The Accessible Digital Textbook initiative is a multi-country project in Africa implemented by UNICEF and UNESCO. It is the first UNPRPD project that combines global, regional and country components to address barriers to learning for children with disabilities. The project's aim is to support inclusive education through enhanced access to information and accessible learning materials in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. It builds on and further develops a previous UNPRPD pilot project on accessible textbooks in Uganda as well as experience from Kenya on the development of accessible digital learning materials. The aim of the project is to generate cooperation among the implementing countries and support the validation of a practice model for accessible digital learning for all.

The multi-country project was launched in July 2019 in Nairobi, bringing together stakeholders, including Ministries of Education, Ministries of ICT, curriculum developers, publishers, OPDs, lecturers, and teachers from all three countries, as well as UNICEF and UNESCO staff. During the inception workshop, experiences on the development and use of an accessible digital textbook were shared, including the use of universal design for learning. A wide representation of OPD representatives participated, including youth with intellectual disabilities.

A key result thus far has been increased understanding of Kenyan stakeholders on the national sign language and its use in accessible learning materials. Two consultation sessions on the national sign language were held, and Kenya's Ministry of Education, Kenyan institutes of curriculum development and special education and OPDs working for Deaf rights participated. In Rwanda, a series of meetings were held between Rwanda's Ministry of Education, the Rwanda Education Board, USAID and the Inclusive Education Technical Working Group to encourage collaboration with other initiatives and to broaden the scope of work and build capacities on accessible learning materials. This project is also responding to the COVID-19 crisis with innovative solutions to bridge the digital and remote learning divide in times of emergencies.



Children with disabilities in an inclusive classroom in Uganda using accessible digital textbooks. © Julie de Barbeyrac, UNICEF

Embedding accountability

Evidence-informed actions and transparent accountability processes are important mechanisms for addressing discrimination and exclusion. Therefore, a core pillar of the UNPRPD's work is focused on strengthening disability data collection systems to improve the quality of disability data; supporting government coordination, planning and budgeting through better data systems; and creating accountability mechanisms based on CRPD Article 33 and SDG 17. The following sections outline examples from the UNPRPD's work in these areas.



A mother participates in a household survey wherein ten thousand households were surveyed in a national disability survey on December 3, 2019 in Djibouti. © UNDP

Overall progress in 2019

In 2019, UNPRPD projects supported 19 interventions to strengthen accountability processes for the implementation of the rights of persons with disabilities by supporting the strengthening of the following:

- Inclusive data systems in eight countries through standalone disability surveys, situational analyses on persons with disabilities, incorporation of disability questions in the 2020 census round and development of inclusive administrative data systems.
- CRPD monitoring and programme specific monitoring processes based on OPDs participation in four countries
- Disability coordination mechanisms in seven countries at national and sub-national levels.

Strengthening disability data systems

To strengthen CRPD monitoring and disability inclusive planning processes, disability data is critical. In 2019 several UNPRPD joint projects reported progress on supporting disability inclusive data systems and data collection.

Examples of progress

Disability situational analyses at national and sub-national levels

In **Djibouti**, a national survey that targeted 10,000 households was conducted to assess the situation of persons with disabilities in order to enable stakeholders to prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities and to develop inclusive strategies, interventions, programmes and projects. The National Institute of Statistics in Djibouti was responsible for implementing the survey in coordination with UNDP and the National Agency of Persons with Disabilities. OPDs worked with statisticians and government officials to produce the survey. The national survey results have shown that the prevalence rate of disability in Djibouti is 8.5 percent.

In **Uruguay**, a national survey on GBV included data and analysis on GBV experienced by women with disabilities. Although it was a small sample size, this was the first survey of its kind in Uruguay and will support the strengthening of responses.

In **Nepal**, a comprehensive survey on the situation of persons with disabilities in the Sudurpashchim Province was conducted in close collaboration with the Valley Research Group in Nepal and the Nossal Institute at the University of Melbourne in Australia. The project has made significant progress in improving access to information and statistics for evidence-informed policy formulation and planning at federal and provincial levels. A final draft report of the survey has been shared with key stakeholders, including the participating UN entities, government ministries and OPDs. It will be used in provincial evidence-based policy-making during the government's ongoing decentralization process. In addition, the survey captures disability prevalence and will inform the process for Nepal's census in 2021.

Disability inclusion in the national census

In **Malawi**, the 2018 census produced disability-disaggregated data, and in 2019 the Malawi Housing and Census Thematic Report on Disability was drafted. Furthermore, a Situational Analysis Report on Children with Disabilities in Malawi based on the census was also drafted and is undergoing review.

In **Bhutan**, UNICEF supported the Bhutan National Statistics Bureau (NSB) to harmonize and analyze existing data and identify gaps in data. As a result, NSB will adopt the Washington Group Short and Extended Sets of Questions in all services and censuses. This will standardize the data collection and analysis processes to ensure data concerning persons with disability can be easily compared in Bhutan.

In **Namibia**, there was a breakthrough in integrating the Washington Group Short Set of Questions into the 2021 Population and Housing Census questionnaire. Through the UNPRPD project, extensive consultations between the Namibia Statistics Agency and OPDs were facilitated, and capacities of key stakeholders were built on disability-disaggregated data and the Washington Group Questions, leading to their integration in the census.

“The National Federation of People with Disabilities in Namibia (NFPDN) was involved from the early stages of the UNPRPD project, including in the development and planning of the grant proposal. NFPDN believes in the value of the partnership model through the UNPRPD that facilitated cooperation between UN Agencies, Disability Affairs in the Office of the President, the Namibia Statistics Agency, OPDs and service providers, resulting in the decision to adopt the Washington Group Questions in the 2021 census.”

Daniel Trum

President of NFPDN

Disability inclusion in administrative data systems

In **Timor Leste**, a training-of-trainers on how to use a child functional screening tool was attended by Ministry of Education officials and staff and NGOs working with children with disabilities. It is expected that the child functioning data collection tools will be tested and finalized for inclusion in the Education Management Information System (EMIS) to collect data on children with disabilities in all basic education schools in the country.

In **Armenia**, the National Center for Educational Technologies developed an electronic database disaggregated by disability for the education sector on children with special education needs which will become a module in the EMIS.

Coordination and planning

A key element for ensuring that policies are informed by the experiences of persons with disabilities is an effective, inter-sectoral, multi-stakeholder mechanism that is responsible for planning, budgeting and ensuring coordination.

Examples of progress

In **Namibia**, the National Disability Forum, which is a multi-stakeholder disability coordination forum, was established in December 2019. It brings together representatives from OPDs, disability service providers, government and UN entities overseen by the Office of the President. This is a new mechanism for coordination on disability inclusive development and is the only platform bringing together OPDs, government and UN entities.

In **Nepal**, following advocacy efforts and capacity building, a Disability Inclusive Coordination Committee at the provincial level in Sudurpaschim was established. The Committee includes representatives from all line ministries and OPDs, ensuring the full diversity of persons with disabilities.

In **Uruguay**, government, CSOs and UN entities engaged in a multi-sectoral dialogue on a human rights model of disability. Throughout the project, weekly meetings were held to consolidate views and to support coordination between stakeholders. As a result, many attitudes of the stakeholders shifted to a human rights model of disability with recognition of disability as a cross-cutting issue. This shift in attitude represents an important step towards mainstreaming disability in all public policies and promotes a common understanding of disability.

Strengthening country level CRPD monitoring mechanisms

To ensure that national CRPD monitoring is robust and effective, the UNPRPD supports the strengthening of national human rights institutions and other independent monitoring mechanisms, which in turn supports CRPD implementation.

Examples of progress

In **Malawi**, the 2019 Disability Bill which was supported by a UNPRPD joint country level project, spells out the rights of persons with disabilities. Notably, it provides for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) as an independent mechanism to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the CRPD. In addition, the NHRC shall have powers to investigate any violation of the Disability Act and shall periodically review compliance with the Act by all the relevant authorities or institutions.

In **Serbia**, a model for a national mechanism to monitor the CRPD has been developed and presented to the Ombudsman's office, and negotiations for establishing the mechanism are ongoing between the UN Human Rights Team, the Ombudsman's Office and CSOs. In addition, a set of indicators for six provisions of the CRPD have been developed and adopted by the National Platform of Civil Society Organizations for Monitoring the Recommendations by the UN Human Rights Mechanisms.

In **Zambia**, a joint annual review was established to track progress in the implementation of social protection programmes. During this review, social protection actors review the implementation of the programmes, discuss best practices and offer recommendations for future policy development, programme planning and service delivery to improve disability mainstreaming.

In **Tajikistan**, 31 CSOs participated in an International Disability Forum to monitor the government's National Programme on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (2017-2020), which is the comprehensive national disability programme. Furthermore, four OPD representatives are formal members of the multi-sectoral Steering Committee established to effectively monitor the implementation of the National Disability Programme.



Progress in cross-cutting areas

Engaging with organizations of persons with disabilities

Central to the UNPRPD's work is the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations at all stages of the design and delivery of UNPRPD joint programmes.

Overall progress in 2019

One of the most consistent results that emerged in 2019 is the increased participation of OPDs in UNPRPD project governance mechanisms as well as in national and local level policy and decision-making processes.

OPD participation was facilitated using different methods and approaches at country level, including participation in the UNPRPD project steering committees, national technical committees that fed into reform processes, national and sub-national coordination forums on disability and multi-stakeholder dialogues on various legislative and systemic change processes.

Examples of progress

Participation in reform processes

In **Armenia**, partnerships with OPDs have been ongoing throughout the project. An Inter-ministerial Steering Committee was established by Prime-Ministerial Decree in June 2019, comprising the Minister and Deputy Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA), Deputy Ministers of Education and Health, UN entities, an EU Delegation to Armenia, OPDs and organizations of parents of children with disabilities. The inclusion of OPDs in the Inter-Ministerial

Steering Committee, which informs the disability assessment reform process, is a direct result of the the UNPRPD project.

In **North Macedonia**, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs leads a committee to coordinate deinstitutionalization reforms. OPDs participate in consultations of the coordination committee. OPDs and persons with disabilities also participate in the implementation of project activities concerning deinstitutionalization and the creation of support services for SRH and GBV.

In Tajikistan, approximately 20 OPDs participated in efforts to promote the ratification of the CRPD. The project Steering Committee included and actively involved OPDs, representatives of associations of children with disabilities and CSOs focused on the rights of women with disabilities.

Core support to OPDs

In **Bhutan**, the Disabled People's Association of Bhutan (DPAB) received support to become a fully functioning OPD, to build capacity on proposal writing and project management and to design an accessible office space. Disabled People's Association of Bhutan (DPAB) and disability CSOs served as members of the UNPRPD Technical Committee and were involved in the planning and decision-making

processes of the project. Furthermore, persons with disabilities facilitated workshops and trainings on Disability Equality Training (DET), which directly contributed to the capacity of disability CSOs. Additional DET facilitators will be trained by DPAB as a result of the project.

Enhanced access to decision-making and disability coordination mechanisms

In **Cambodia**, the Cambodian Disabled People's Organization and the Battambang Disabled People's Organization, Obeichoan, Disabled People's Organization and Khmer Disabled Assistance Organization are members of the UNPRPD's project Steering Committee, which is co-chaired by the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation and the UN Resident Coordinator. OPDs and local authorities met on a monthly basis. The development of the National Policy on Legal Aid supported by the UNPRPD involved persons with disabilities at all stages of the process. Three Cambodian forums of women with disabilities worked closely with other OPDs to ensure that the voices and needs of women and children with disabilities were included in the policy. In addition, OPDs participated in government provincial disability action councils, which increased the number of persons with disabilities registered for disability allowance schemes. This resulted in 12,466 persons with disabilities (6,205 women with disabilities) being registered in the disability allowance scheme, and 1,664 persons with disabilities (713 women with disabilities) receiving the disability allowance.

In **Zambia**, four representatives of sub-national OPDs from Mansa and Samfya Districts were members of the UNPRPD project Steering Committee, and two representatives of OPDs were members of the District Development Coordinating Committee (DDCC), a lower level structure of the Ministry of Development and Planning.

In **China**, the China Disabled People's Federation was at the forefront of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the UNPRPD-funded project, including through their active involvement in the UN Thematic Group on Disability. OPDs also advised on the design, development and testing of the disability resource hub, serving as programmers, advisors and technical experts on accessibility functions.

The National Federation of the Disabled in **Nepal** participated in the UNPRPD-funded project at the design phase and was an integral part of the project implementation phase. Persons with disabilities were represented in the project Steering Committee, providing strategic guidance to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in Nepal. For example, persons with disabilities were represented on the government's Disability Inclusion Coordination Committee at the provincial level in Sudurpaschim Province.

Participation of the most marginalized groups of persons with disabilities

In **Serbia**, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including representative organizations of women with disabilities and self-advocates with intellectual disabilities and psychosocial disabilities, were included in the UNPRPD project Steering Committee of the project. All the OPDs included in the Steering Committee were involved in implementation and delivery of the project activities, influencing legal capacity reforms, SRH services and economic participation of persons with disabilities.

The UNPRPD project in **Timor Leste** supported the umbrella OPD to intensify its advocacy efforts leading to a Parliamentary Declaration on CRPD ratification and inclusion of persons with disabilities. OPD partners were also invited to the 2019 and 2020 UN Women's strategic partnership meetings, and participated in consultations on the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls in Timor Leste, and were invited to contribute to the Gender Equality Coordination Group meetings chaired by the Secretary of State for Equality and Inclusion and UN Women.

In **Egypt**, the design of the employment referral system that resulted from the UNPRPD-funded project was based on consultations with 25 members of the Disabled Women's Committee and the National Council for Women.



In **cambodia**

1,664

Persons with disability receiving allowance



713

are women



Young people with disabilities commemorating International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December, 2019 in the Windhoek, Namibia. © UNFPA Namibia

OPD engagement in monitoring the national disability programme in Tajikistan

In Tajikistan, the National Programme on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (2017-2020) which is the comprehensive programme to add the rights and participation of persons with disabilities was inclusively implemented, monitored and evaluated through partnerships and engagement with OPDs. The National Programme's multi-sectoral Steering Committee comprised seven key ministries, state agencies, five OPD representatives (three male and two female) and a representative of the Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities. Each member of the committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Programme.

Participation of OPDs was largely through bilateral meetings through the multi-sectoral Steering Committee. In addition, they participated in joint monitoring visits in 2018 to ensure that inclusive interventions were being implemented and to monitor policy implementation, which influenced the agenda of the National Disability Forum 2019 which is a review forum for the Programme.

Furthermore, two annual national review and planning summits were organized in November 2018 and May 2020 to support a review the multi-sectoral National Programme by Ministry of Health and Social Protection, OPDs, and other development partners .

Facilitating a partnership approach

UNPRPD adopts a partnership approach by leveraging the unique convening power of the UN system. UNPRPD brings together different partners, such as governments, OPDs, broader civil society, academia and private sector with the purpose of building bridges, facilitating dialogue, fostering ownership and promoting formal and informal collaboration.



Overall progress in 2019

In 2019, 26 formal partnership agreements were reported, leading to collaboration between government ministries, OPDs and other stakeholders. These agreements resulted in the development of inclusive tools, creation of technical groups or inter-agency committees, and coordination on policy and legislative reforms.

Examples of progress

Governments are usually involved through line ministries, such as Social Affairs, Education, Employment or Justice. Partnerships have also been established at the local level, for example, the project in **Peru** was implemented in five local districts and in **Zambia** the project was implemented in the Luapula Province.

Meaningful participation of persons with disabilities is one of the core guiding principles of the UNPRPD's work. Modalities for engaging with OPDs have varied depending on the context and the complexity of the disability movement in the country. By investing in coalition building and partnership development, the UNPRPD project has played a pivotal role in generating opportunities for OPDs with access to decision-makers.

UNPRPD projects supported the creation and operationalization of governmental coordination mechanisms on disability. For instance, in **Armenia** an inter-ministerial Steering Committee was

established that included line ministries, UN entities and OPDs. In **Namibia** through the UNPRPD support, the National Disability Forum was created, which is a multi-stakeholder disability coordination mechanism bringing together OPDs, government bodies and UN entities. In **Uruguay**, the UNPRPD project supported the creation of an inter-institutional working group on common assessment of disability, which included the participation of the national umbrella OPD.

Collaboration has also been fostered between OPDs and broader civil society organizations. For instance, in **Timor Leste**, women's groups and OPDs have established formal partnerships with UN Women, UNFPA, WHO and UNICEF to promote the rights of women with disabilities.

In joint programmes aimed at improving access to employment, the UNPRPD has consolidated partnerships with business networks to develop guidelines in **China**, carried out awareness raising activities in **Guatemala** and developed toolkits on inclusive employment in **Peru, Guatemala, and China**.

Finally, the UNPRPD has worked with universities to enhance knowledge on disability inclusion. In **Pakistan**, the University of Peshawar's Journalism and Mass Communications Department was involved in a training workshop on sensitive reporting of GBV for women with disabilities.

21% Ministry of Social Affairs

17% Ministry of Health

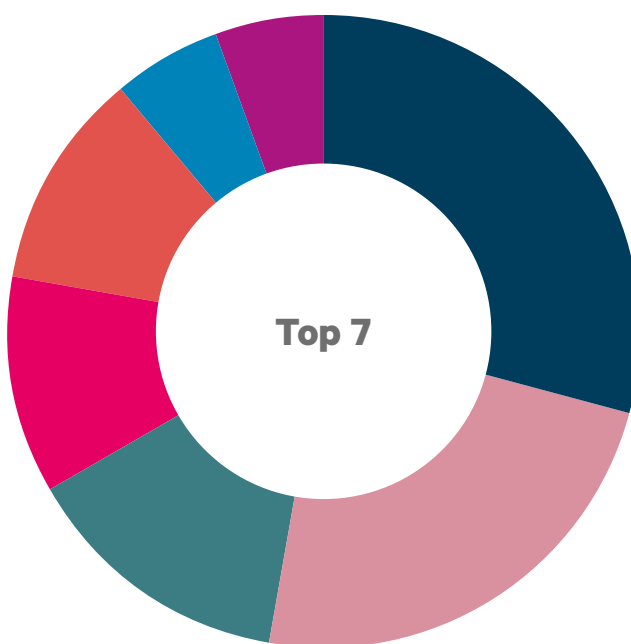
10% Disability Commissions

8% Ministry of Education

8% Ministry of Justice

4% Ministry of Employment

4% National Statistics Offices



71

Total Number of government entities engaged



Picture with the representatives establishing a formal partnership with the National System for Family on inclusive childcare facilities in Mexico. © UNDP



90%

of children attend childcare facilities reached by partners

Pilot project

36,000

children in 5 states

UNPRPD in Mexico: a formal partnership for inclusive childcare facilities

In September 2019, UNPRPD project partners signed an agreement with the National System for Family Development (SNDIF) and eight other government institutions. Together, these partners reach 90 percent of children with and without disabilities who attend childcare facilities in the country. The project has started implementing in a pilot in five Mexican states to create inclusive attention and care for 36,000 children aged 0 to 6.

The event to formalize this partnership was attended by civil society organizations, OPDs and organizations and foundations working on early childhood rights, such as Nacional Monte de Piedad, LEGO Foundation, Fomento Económico Mexicano (FEMSA), Televisa Foundation and Carlos Slim Foundation.

Moving forward, the project will collaborate with PAHO and WHO, and the national inclusive Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) models will be translated into a national law and policy.

Advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities

To achieve gender equality and empower women and girls with disabilities, the UNPRPD takes a multi-pronged approach to mainstream gender and to target interventions to enhance the participation and empowerment of women and girls with disabilities.

Overall Progress in 2019

In 2019, all UNPRPD projects have applied gender equality as a cross cutting principle to advance the rights of persons with disabilities. Of these, nine projects focused on advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities through a targeted approach. These initiatives led to the following results:

- Inclusive inter-sectoral GBV response services and improved capacity and awareness of the services required by women and girls with disabilities who are survivors of violence.
- Inclusive SRH systems, including approval of national protocols and increased capacity of health staff.
- Gender-focused elements in legislative and policy reforms for persons with disabilities.
- Participation of women with disabilities in legislative and policy reforms, as well as monitoring mechanisms.
- Increased advocacy skills of women with disabilities.

Examples of progress

Gender analysis

The project in the **Dominican Republic** carried out gender analysis and mapping of the situation of women with disabilities to identify barriers to participation as well as legislative and policies gaps. The gender analysis was conducted in collaboration with OPDs and government agencies that oversee the implementation of disability policies. This analysis

resulted in the identification of underlying factors that prevent women and girls with disabilities from accessing services. The analysis will inform a monitoring and evaluation framework with gender sensitive indicators to track the impact of the project on women and girls with disabilities.

Gender-responsive and disability inclusive laws and policies

In **Bhutan**, the project adopted a gender lens from the outset, resulting in a National Policy for Persons with Disabilities that outlines the risks that women and girls with disabilities face and sets out guidance for ensuring the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities. For instance, the policy requires the Ministry of Education to consider the rights of girls and women with disabilities in all education policies, plans and programmes. The Ministry of Health is required to take appropriate additional measures to ensure women and children with disabilities have full and equal access to the highest available standard of health services. The Ministry of Labour and Human Resources is directed to develop self-employment and vocational training programmes for all persons with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities.

In the project in **Tajikistan**, seven laws were reviewed, and gender specific recommendations were made to five of these laws.

Participation and voice of women with disabilities

In **Guatemala**, multi-stakeholder discussions on gender and disability were organized to analyse the multiple and intersecting discrimination that persons with disabilities face. Ana Peláez, member of the UN CEDAW Committee, was invited to facilitate this dialogue, which included women with disabilities, female carers of persons with disabilities, OPDs, service providers, government officials, private sector and UN staff in Guatemala.



Ana Peláez, member of the UN CEDAW Committee during the training on human rights of persons with disabilities, Guatemala. © OHCHR Guatemala

In **Tunisia**, women with disabilities have presented testimonies in trainings on the rights of persons with disabilities. For example, Ms. Temna Tabib, member of the UNPRPD Advocacy Group and the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women, presented her work on the rights of women with disabilities and experiences of women with disabilities in Tunisia. The project also supported the application of Ms. Tabib to serve in the National Human Rights Institution.

In **Serbia**, UN Women in partnership with the OPD, Center for Independent Living Serbia, conducted a baseline mapping of women and girls with disabilities at top management positions within OPDs and women's organizations in Serbia. The results of the mapping showed that women with disabilities are not well represented in these top management positions. As a result, a mentoring programme was launched in collaboration with 10 women disability rights activists to promote the leadership of women with disabilities.

"At first, the process seemed complex but after the first meeting, my mentee and I could both envision the path we would take. The most gratifying and important thing I came across was that I could bestir my mentee, and she was able to learn how to express herself and be herself."

Aleksandra Tomasevic

Mentor, Women with Disabilities Mentorship Programme, Serbia

In **Zimbabwe**, 20 women and girls from Bubi, Bulilima, Gwanda and Tsholotsho Districts advocated for their rights with 20 legislators, following advocacy and leadership skills building training. Additionally, in December 2019, 30 women and girls with disabilities from Epworth, Hurungwe, Muzarabani, Shamva, Tsholotsho, Uzumba and Maramba-Pfungwe Districts received training and engaged with UN heads of entities and senior management on improving disability inclusion for women and girls with disabilities.

Targeted interventions

In 2019, seven joint programmes in **Timor Leste, North Macedonia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uruguay, China, and Serbia** included targeted interventions to advance the rights of women with disabilities.

Targeted interventions have mainly focused on access to SRH services and GBV response services, as well as prevention strategies. Projects have focused on increasing the capacity of healthcare providers and justice officials to develop protocols and guidelines, raise awareness and produce accessible information.

In **Zambia**, the UNPRPD project in collaboration with Ministry of Health and the General Nursing Council developed a disability inclusion module for integrated SRH, HIV/AIDS and GBV services and piloted it in Mansa Nursing College, hoping to add it to the Nurses and Midwifery curriculum. This module, which is earmarked for roll-out in 2020, is expected to enhance respect for the rights of women with disabilities when they access health services, particularly in relation to the right to make health-related choices and decisions, as enshrined in the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2012.

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In **North Macedonia** modules for community-based, inclusive SRH and GBV services were adapted from the accredited Strengthening Health System Responses to GBV (WAVE curricula). This included the development of new training materials and workshop formats for service providers. Thirteen public institutions and six NGOs, totalling 139 participants, participated in capacity building on inclusive SRH and GBV services.

221

Participants from 14 institutions trained on GBV prevention and response in Uruguay

In **China**, inclusive SRH training modules were developed for scaling up SRH services for women and young persons with disabilities. The modules were developed by OPDs, CSOs, and a training facilitator, and tested through a participatory workshop with 20 participants. Two trainings were delivered to 40 service providers in Kunming City in Yunnan Province.

In **Timor Leste**, national guidelines to address GBV, including intimate partner violence, were developed and disseminated to healthcare providers. The aim is to help health practitioners, GBV service providers and OPDs when supporting survivors of violence with disabilities. The guidelines also include tools for referral pathways.

In **Uruguay**, the UNPRPD project conducted a disability analysis of the protocols, normative framework, roadmaps and guidelines used by GBV service providers. A set of recommendations was developed

through consultations involving OPDs and government institutions. Parallel to this analysis, teams from the inter-institutional response systems for GBV were sensitized and trained on how to provide inclusive services for women with disabilities, which involved 221 participants from 14 institutions, including government, police, private sector, and NGOs. In a post-training survey 83 percent of participants demonstrated a shift in perception and / or attitude towards disability as a result of the workshops. Moving forward, an online course on disability, human rights and SRH will be hosted by the national health service coordination network and will be available for other UNPRPD countries in Latin America.

Advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, the UNPRPD project aimed to improve access to GBV programmes for women with disabilities. A disability assessment was conducted in shelters that provide comprehensive legal, police, health and psychosocial support to survivors of violence, - Bubi Shelter in Matabeleland North, Sote Shelter in Masvingo Province and the Gweru One Stop Center.

The assessment evaluated the infrastructure, technical skills of service providers, policies and the needs of persons with disabilities to better understand how access to services could be improved in the shelters.

Key questions were asked on the mechanisms that facilitate or impede participation and environmental and attitudinal barriers to accessing services. Twenty-five girls and women with disabilities participated in the assessment in the two shelters and one stop center. Based on the findings, a set of recommendations was developed on how to ensure GBV response services are inclusive of women and girls with disabilities.

As a result, 30 staff members were trained on basic sign language and accessible communication for survivors of GBV with intellectual disabilities and survivors of GBV with psychosocial disabilities. Adaptations to the physical environment were made to ensure survivors of violence with disabilities could move independently within the shelter and one stop center. The measures increased the quality of support for survivors with disabilities.

These assessments and trainings were replicated in eight shelters for survivors of GBV managed by Musasa. Awareness raising and participatory activities were also introduced to improve decision making and autonomy of survivors with disabilities. Currently, multi- sectoral teams on GBV are being trained on sign language and supported to provide information in accessible formats for survivors with visual impairments. The learning from this project will also guide design of services for court sessions related to GBV.

"I thank the programme for inviting us to participate in the shelter assessment. Last time I came here I could not be assisted because no one could understand my informal sign language, but now I am because I am able to be assisted."

Gutu, Survivor



Interviews with some of the participants at Bubi Shelter, Zimbabwe, participating in the disability assessment to improve access to GBV response programmes and services. © UNFPA Zimbabwe

Awareness raising to tackle stigma and discrimination

The realization of the CRPD and SDGs for persons with disabilities is as much an outcome of inclusive policies and services as it is of an enabling environment based on values of non-discrimination and respect for human diversity. Therefore, awareness raising to tackle stigma and discrimination is a core element of UNPRPD programmes.

Right to Participation and Inclusive Education posters, awareness raising campaign, Guatemala. © OHCHR Guatemala



Overall Progress in 2019

In 2019, 10 UNPRPD projects engaged in awareness raising activities, reaching over 10 million people to address stigma, discrimination and harmful cultural practices. Projects have carried out campaigns and sensitization activities that target government staff, private sector, and UN staff, as well as the broader general public.

Examples of progress

In **Tajikistan**, a multi-faceted, nationwide campaign on disability inclusion reached over 7 million people through TV, radio and press coverage. The broadcast focused on and involved children with disabilities, showing them living and participating in their communities, e.g., attending school and interacting with peers. 46 percent of all schoolchildren and 32 percent of all pre-school-aged children in the country received newly published books with positive messages on disability inclusion. A study following the campaign showed that 40 percent of people believe that persons with disabilities can live a full life, which was only 12 percent before the campaign. Prior to the campaign 53 percent of people thought that the best place for children with disabilities was in a specialized institution, and after the campaign only 30 percent believed this was the case.



Traditional leader's sensitization activity, Mansa, Zambia. © ILO Zambia

In **Zambia**, the UNPRPD project actively involved traditional leaders and local community leaders to eradicate stigma and discrimination. All provincial and district development programmes are implemented in local communities, which are headed by traditional leaders, making them essential interlocutors to tackling stigma and discrimination. The project targeted 54 traditional and religious leaders to discuss key disability inclusion issues. The Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs initiated community campaigns in all of the twelve chiefdoms where the project was piloted. The purpose of the campaigns was to address stereotypes and myths regarding persons with disabilities.

In **Malawi**, the UNPRPD project supported two OPDs, the Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi and the Association of Persons with Albinism in Malawi, to deliver awareness raising activities at national and local levels, reaching 6,000 people.

In **China**, a themed exhibition on disability was held for the celebration of the Chinese National Day for Persons with Disabilities in the UNESCO Garden at the 2019 Beijing Expo. Posters were designed to raise public awareness on the background and key concepts of disability inclusion. It is estimated that the exhibition reached approximately 320,000 visitors.

The project in **Uruguay** developed a campaign aimed to sensitize the general public on SRH rights of persons with disabilities. The campaign "To love there is no disability" (Para amar no hay discapacidad) consisted of a short video that received wide distribution. The project received national TV and national newspaper coverage.

In **Guatemala**, the project launched two awareness campaigns. The first one, "Dale la Vuelta (Flip It Over)," sought to raise awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights to education, employment, and health through digital and social media. Exhibit forums and discussions were also organized to promote dialogue between persons with disabilities and the general public. The social media campaign reached more than 20 million viewers.

The second campaign, "Como Todos los Demás", (Like Everybody Else) sought to raise the awareness of employers on the added value of inclusive employment. The campaign presented three two-minute videos of persons with disabilities in everyday work situations. The campaign was launched in November 2019 with the participation of the Ministry of Labour and the National Council on Disability.

Supporting disability mainstreaming, capacity building and knowledge management



Participant during the workshop on Inclusive Budgeting providing sign language interpretation to a group.
© Helio Miguel de Araujo, UN Women

Supporting disability mainstreaming efforts at national the level

When disability inclusion-focused projects are delivered, it can have the overall effect of raising broader awareness on disability inclusion, resulting in increased disability analysis and inclusion more broadly beyond the scope of the UNPRPD project.

Overall trends in 2019

In 2019, there have been indirect results from UNPRPD joint programmes in several areas of UN programming at country level, including consideration of the rights of persons with disabilities in country programme documents and cooperation frameworks, enhanced capacity and knowledge on disability inclusion, strengthened networking with OPDs beyond UNPRPD-funded projects, and increased coordination on disability in general.

Examples of Progress

Inclusion in country and UNCT planning documents

In **Cambodia**, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator who serves as co-chair of the UNPRPD Programme Steering Committee, UNDP and OHCHR included the rights of persons with disabilities in their country programme documents. The principle of leaving no one behind is one of the overarching programme principles in the 2019-2023 UN Development Assistance Framework in Cambodia.

In line with the SDG principle of leaving no one behind, the UN system in **Namibia** under United Nations Partnership Agreement Framework (UNPAF) is supporting the government to promote the rights of persons with disabilities across all four strategic pillars of the UNPAF: economic progression, social transformation, environmental sustainability and good governance. The UNPRPD project activities were also aligned with the relevant UNPAF pillars. UNCT

members (i.e., the heads of UN entities) are in full support of the UNPRPD project and have committed to having a standing agenda item in the UNCT meetings to provide an update on disability inclusion supported through the project.

UN knowledge and capacity on disability inclusion

The UN entities' staff engaged in the UNPRPD project have become recognized as a source of information, also given their networks with the disability movement in **North Macedonia**, and their joint knowledge and expertise will be used in the preparation of the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2025. Also, within the COVID-19 crisis, this group has been the go-to team to provide relevant inputs and responses in addressing specific needs of persons with disabilities, tapping into their close contacts with OPDs. In addition, an informal group of experts on the rights of persons with disabilities has been created within the UNCT.

UN staff in **Serbia** have increased understanding of human rights-based approaches to disability and CRPD standards beyond the UNPRPD project and initiated in-house CRPD training.

Engaging with OPDs beyond the UNPRPD

In **Tajikistan**, UN entities continued to work on the rights of persons with disabilities beyond the UNPRPD programme. For example, UNDP integrated disability perspectives and OPDs within its work

on the rule of law and access to justice. Similarly, UNICEF contributed to the capacity development of 18 members of the Coalition of the Associations of Parents of Children with Disabilities on community mobilization for social inclusion. WHO, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, provided technical support and recommendations for the integration of rehabilitation issues and access to health services by persons with disabilities into the new 2021-2030 Tajikistan National Health Strategy. Support was provided with close participation of OPDs with the objective of making the new national health strategy compliant with CRPD obligations. To strengthen the evidence base in Tajikistan for universal health coverage in policy development, technical support was provided by WHO in coordination with the World Bank to strengthen the health and disability modules of the Tajikistan Household Budget Survey.

In **Timor Leste**, UN Women has started to systematically involve OPDs in workshops and advocacy efforts on gender equality and women's empowerment beyond the scope of the UNPRPD project, creating new opportunities to elevate the voices of women with disabilities. For example, the Community Based Rehabilitation Network that represents women with disabilities participated in a UN Women's seminar on women's leadership in November to advocate for greater participation of women in municipal administrations, contributing to the advancement of SDGs 5 (Gender equality) and 10 (Reduced inequalities).

In **Zimbabwe**, UN entities provided technical support on disability mainstreaming during the development of the Ministry of Public Service and Social Welfare's

Five-Year Strategic Plan, which was requested by Population Service International (PSI).

Country level coordination

The UN in **Zambia** has established a "Leave No One Behind Group" which meets quarterly and includes persons with disabilities among other marginalized groups. The UNPRPD project team participates in the group, taps into the expertise of other UN entities and shares best practices on disability inclusion from the UNPRPD project to support other entities that are not part of the UNPRPD project to prioritize disability mainstreaming.

In 2019, the UNCT in **China** restructured and expanded the UN Sub-group on Disability, which was established in 2015 and based on the UNPRPD project Steering Committee, into a much broader coordination platform - entitled the UN Thematic Group on Disability (UNTGD). The UNTGD serves as a useful mechanism to engage disability stakeholders and create spaces for open dialogue. As of December 2019, the total number of UNTGD members reached was 148, representing over 100 key stakeholders in the disability field in China, including OPDs, CSOs, INGOs, and UN entities. UNTGD meetings held in 2019 invited guest speakers from the China Association of Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities and their Relatives and the Organizing Committee of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics and Paralympics



Young woman with albinism shares her views at the UNPRPD Second Advisory group meeting during the Disability Day and 16 Days of Gender Based Violence Activism commemoration in Zimbabwe. © UNESCO

UNPRPD capacity building and knowledge management

Gaps in achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and in implementing the CRPD pose a great challenge to all development stakeholders. There is an ever-growing need for UN entities and their in-country partners to have the knowledge and capacity to implement the CRPD and the SDGs. Therefore, as part of the UNPRPD's overall focus on building national level capacities for CRPD implementation and project quality assurance processes, knowledge management and capacity building have been at the core of the UNPRPD's work.



Posters with key disability inclusion messages to advance the rights of women with disabilities at the 'Entre Mujeres (Among Women)' event organized by the Civil Society Coalition "Alianza" on gender, violence, and disability in Uruguay. © Gustavo Gonzales – Alianza de Personassas con Discapacidad, Uruguay

Overall trends in 2019

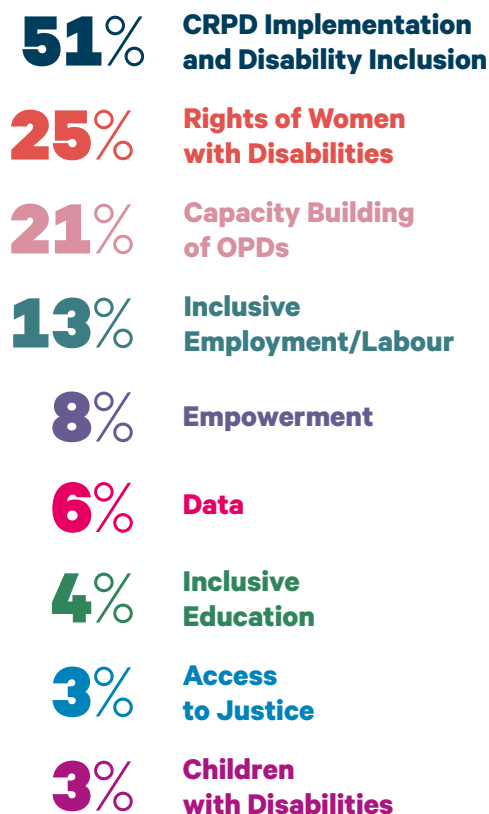
In 2019, UNPRPD projects supported multi-stakeholder training for decision-makers, frontline workers, private companies, services providers, UN staff and OPDs, reaching 11,660 people through 96 trainings, and generated 15 system strengthening guides and toolkits to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities through inclusive policies, laws and services. In addition, the global KnowUNPRPD Programme facilitated knowledge sharing for UN staff from 18 countries who are delivering UNPRPD projects.

Capacity development trainings

In 2019, UNPRPD projects organized a significant number of trainings for multiple stakeholder groups at country level with a wide-ranging focus. Topics included introductory trainings on the CRPD and disability inclusion as well as advanced trainings on specific sectoral issues through 96 trainings which reached 11,660 stakeholders from governments, UN agencies, OPDs, private sector and CSOs. Approximately 46 percent of participants were female.⁸ Persons with disabilities were both participants of trainings as well as facilitators of trainings. This brings the cumulative number of trainings supported by UNPRPD members since its inception to 64,803.

Capacity building and knowledge tools and guidelines

The UNPRPD integrates training into the delivery of its joint programmes to ensure the success of project. The 96 trainings delivered through UNPRPD projects in 2019 focused on a range of topics, including introductory trainings on the CRPD and disability inclusion, which are essential to the delivery of other project activities, as well as advanced trainings on specific sectoral issues, such as on inclusive education, early identification and intervention, legal capacity and supported decision-making UNPRPD projects adopt a collaborative approach. Therefore, trainings delivered through UNPRPD projects are most often delivered to a multi-stakeholder group - government officials, UN staff, representatives from OPDs, representatives from the private sector, and representatives from CSOs. Of the 11,660 stakeholders who received training through UNPRPD projects, approximately 46 percent of participants were female. In addition, many of the trainings were facilitated by persons with disabilities.



46%
of participants
were female

8. For trainings for which sex disaggregated data is available.



Sokchan at the training on methodologies and monitoring the human rights cases of persons with disabilities in Siem Reap province, Cambodia. © UNDP Cambodia

Legal aid training for women leaders with disabilities in Cambodia

Sokchan is a leader of the Women with Disabilities Forum in Cambodia. She was born in Battambang Province that was deeply impacted by a civil war for decades she acquired a disability as a result as a child. At 42 years of age, she actively advocates for the rights of women with disabilities in her province. Due to a lack of information on legal aid and access to justice, she used to find it difficult to provide advice and support other group members, particularly on GBV, abuse and discrimination. She received training on the legal aid system of Cambodia through the UNPRPD project. Consequently, she is more confident of her abilities as a legal aid mentor. She now documents cases based on the practical guidance developed through the UNPRPD project and support from project partners, such as the Cambodian Disabled Persons Organization and Legal Aid Cambodia. Sokchan now refers cases to the local authorities.

Knowledge and capacity building tools and guidelines

As a part of UNPRPD country level joint projects, 15 guides and toolkits to enhance knowledge and skills were developed to support CRPD implementation in 2019. These tools include practical guidelines on disability mainstreaming within national laws and policies and legal aid systems for persons with disabilities and tools to advance disability inclusion in a range of thematic policy areas, including early identification and intervention, inclusive education, inclusive employment, vocational education, SRH, GBV prevention and response, disability responsive reporting, and access to information. These guidelines offer critical support to frontline workers across a range of sectors. For example, disability mainstreaming standards and guidance in the Hospitals Safety Index were developed in Nepal. To advance the leadership and participation of women with disabilities, guidance was developed on mentoring young women with disabilities in Serbia.

The 8th KnowUNPRPD workshop

As part of the UNPRPD's global knowledge management work, the KnowUNPRPD Workshop was held in November 2019 for 18 countries. The 8th KnowUNPRPD workshop brought together representatives from Benin, Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Macedonia, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Palestine, Pakistan, Peru, Serbia, Timor Leste, Uruguay, Zambia, and Zimbabwe in person and representatives from Benin and Cambodia who joined remotely.

The overall topics of the workshop included the following:

- Knowledge management and capacity building needs
- Progress on existing projects and knowledge sharing from projects
- The UNPRPD's next strategic framework, including links between the UNPRPD and the UNDIS

Representatives from joint country projects shared their work and experiences during thematic discussions on a range of topics, including legal and policy frameworks, systems change, data and national planning processes, OPD engagement, diversity in UNPRPD projects, and advancement of the rights of women with disabilities. Participants noted the added value of UNPRPD's approaches, including multi-stakeholder collaboration and the increased access of OPDs to policy making processes that result from UNPRPD joint country projects.

The workshop shed light on the lessons learned from UNPRPD programme experiences to inform the new UNPRPD Strategic and Operational Framework. Notably, participants reflected on past successes, such as UNPRPD's flexible and responsive budgeting procedures, the catalytic nature of the UNPRPD funding, and multi-stakeholder engagement. Country representatives also advised that the future focus should continue to be on systemic change, especially on cross-cutting issues that impact all sectors.

GBV toolkit in Timor Leste

"In 2019, I joined the Community Based Rehabilitation Network. I was the coordinator for developing a toolkit that would help and respond to GBV experience of women and girls with disabilities. We partnered with UN Women and the UN Human Rights Advisory Unit with funds from UNRRPD. With their support, we have finalized the training using the best adult learning techniques and have since trained 10 facilitators, mainly women. Among them, five of us are persons with disabilities trained to be a facilitator to roll out the training. The toolkit is targeted at organizations and service providers for GBV prevention and response and helps them to develop an action plan to improve service delivery for women and girls with disabilities. It was a challenging and exciting time for me, learning about GBV and facilitation. Before I attended the training, I was used to speaking in front of a crowd, but not as a facilitator, I felt less confident about my capacities as a trainer. But now this has changed. I co-facilitate the training and share my knowledge about the toolkit and GBV jointly with my co-facilitators. This toolkit will help raise awareness and shift the service providers' attitudes. Persons with disabilities will have the same freedoms and opportunities as everyone else."

Norberta Vicente Soares da Cruz

Coordinator, Community Based Rehabilitation Network
Timor Leste

UNPRPD communication and visibility

In 2019, the UNPRPD increased its efforts in order to promote the results of its programmes and to elevate its visibility among donors and partners. An important milestone was the launch of the UNPRPD website, **www.unprpd.org**.

This accessible website compiles information on UNPRPD's work and projects. There is also a resources page containing key materials and tools produced by the UNPRPD. The site has increased its traffic and is a valuable resource on UN joint programming to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.

Along with the website, the UNPRPD's twitter account, **@unprpd**, was launched. In the first six months, the account accumulated more than 500 followers, including donors, UN entities and programmes, international and regional OPDs, and other key development actors. It is being used as a useful platform to provide a voice to all of UNPRPD's

projects and partners. An institutional video and a compilation of video interviews of key stakeholders involved in the projects were also produced, and a new brand identity was designed. The UNPRPD was featured in the annual reports of UNDP and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

The UNPRPD raised its visibility in 2019, by participating in several events. In September, the UNPRPD Technical Secretariat Manager represented the UNPRPD at the 74th UN General Assembly side event "The Missing Billion in Universal Health: Children and Persons with Developmental Delays and Disabilities" organized by the missions of Qatar and the Philippines in collaboration with H&M Foundation and UNICEF.

In November, the UNPRPD featured in the 3rd International Conference on Disability and Development organized by the International Centre for Evidence in Disability (ICED) at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in London. The event was co-hosted by Sightsavers in partnership with CBM, Action for Disability and Development (ADD), and HelpAge International with support from DFID.



Panelists at the UNGA74 Side Event on Developmental Delays and Disabilities in New York. © UNICEF



Next steps

In 2020 the focus of UNPRPD's activities will be on the following priorities

Launch of the UNPRPD's new Strategy 2020-2025

The UNPRPD will develop and adopt a new Strategic and Operational Framework (SOF) to define its priorities for the next five years. It will be based on lessons learned and reflections from UNPRPD projects, consultations with the key stakeholders and partners and strategic opportunities and needs based on the environment.

A new call for proposals for country programmes on CRPD implementation (4th UNPRPD funding round)

A call for proposals under a fourth funding round will be announced based on the newly developed Strategic and Operational Framework to support UNPRPD members to further advance CRPD implementation at country level.

Multi-country call for proposals on stigma and discrimination

A global call for proposals to address stigma and discrimination will be launched through a multi-country funding window. This call aims to support initiatives that identify existing gaps in knowledge to effectively address disability-based stigma and discrimination at the governmental level. It will place emphasis on the intersectional stigma experienced by women and girls with disabilities. The call will be an opportunity for UNPRPD members to design targeted and tailored interventions to tackle stigma and to contribute to the adoption of effective policies, processes, programmes, and administrative practices.

Supporting a disability inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery

A major component of the UNPRPD's work in 2020 will be supporting a disability inclusive COVID-19 response through joint country level projects and global initiatives, including through knowledge products and capacity building tools, as the crisis evolves.

UNPRPD global initiatives

In 2020, the UNPRPD will launch new global initiatives on intersectionality, strengthened national human rights institutions and independent monitoring mechanisms to implement CRPD Article 33, and assistive technology eco-system.



Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

UNPRPD Technical Secretariat

304 East 45th Street New York, NY, 10017

✉ UNPRPD.Secretariat@undp.org

💻 www.unprpd.org

🐦 [@unprpd](https://twitter.com/unprpd)